

Huskers Illustrated

MARCH/APRIL, 1986 \$2.95

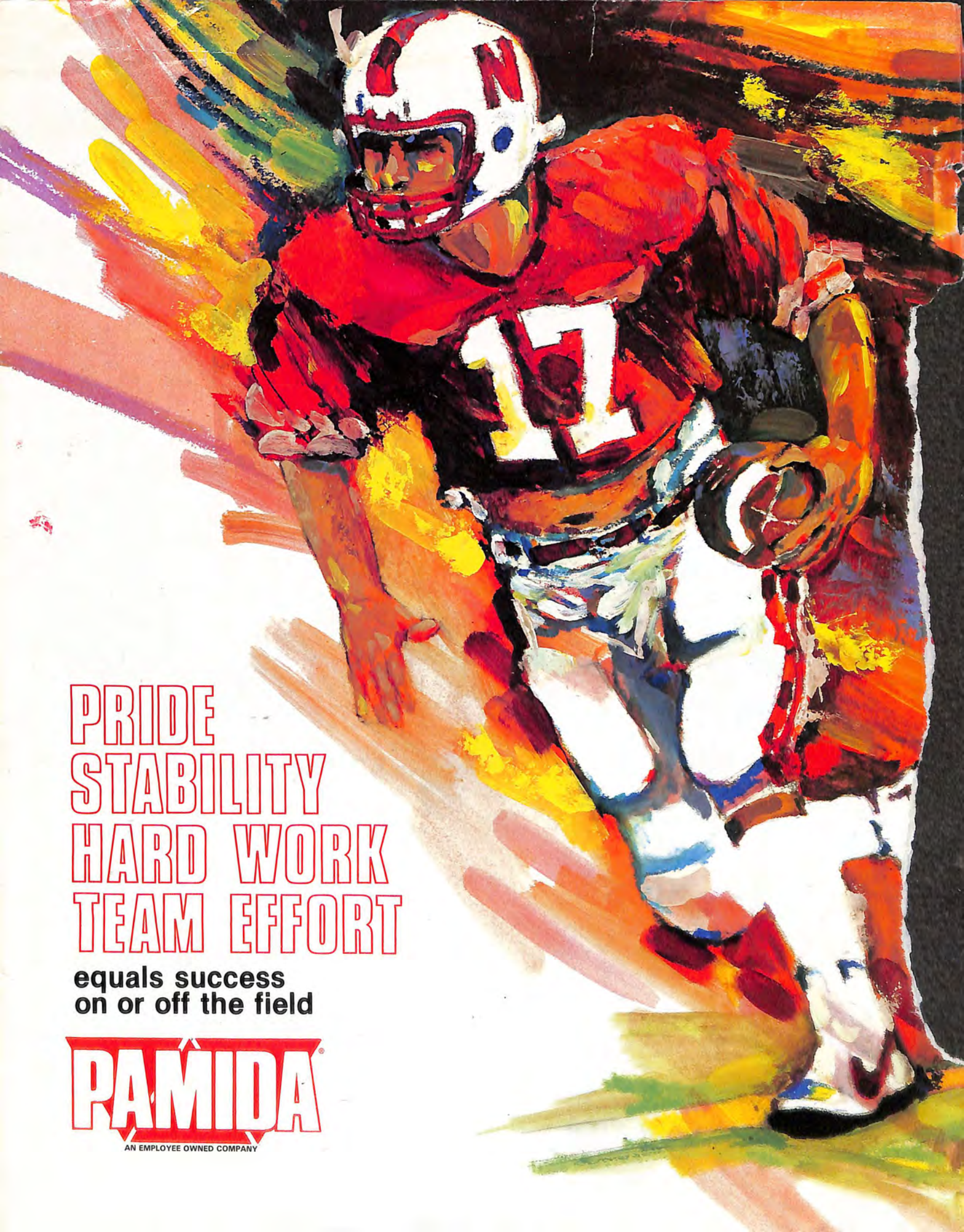
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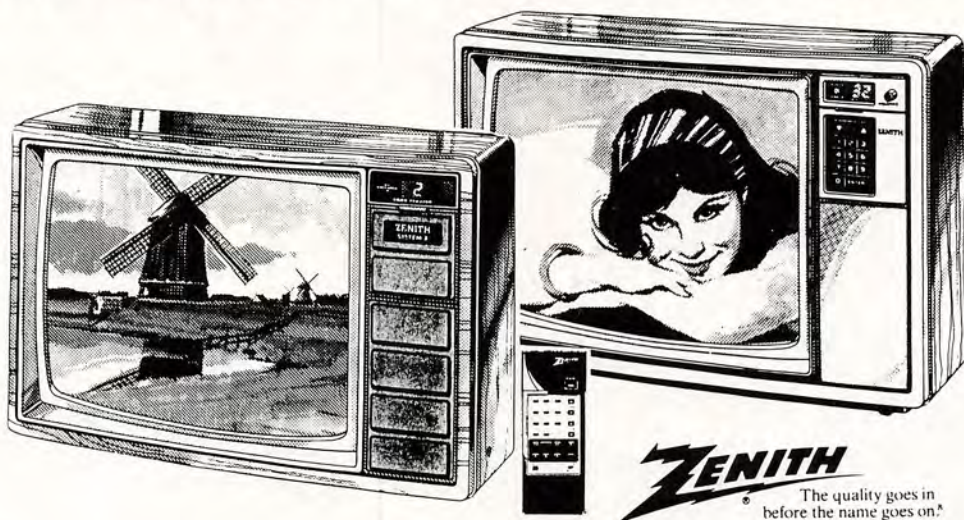
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Features

- | | |
|---|----|
| Steve Taylor
Looking to be No. 1. | 14 |
| McCathorn Clayton
Wanting to stay No. 1. | 18 |
| Clete Blakeman
The third man. | 22 |
| Spring In The Works
Job opportunities abound. | 24 |
| Heisman Hype
Don Bryant knows how to promote all-star hopefuls. | 28 |
| The New Guys In Town
Who Nebraska signed on letter-of-intent day. | 34 |
| Sunkist Fiesta Bowl Review
Airplane malfunctions weren't the only problems. | 40 |
| Junior Varsity Was Tough!
Review of the JV 5-0 season. | 46 |
| Sanders & Club Optimistic
Remembering last year's finish and hoping for more. | 50 |
| Nebraska '66 Cagers
Some say it was the greatest in NU history. | 56 |

Departments

- | | |
|---------------------|----|
| Letters | 6 |
| Potpourri | 11 |
| Centerspread | 32 |
| On The Cover | |

Marc Munford will miss spring practice, but the Husker defense hopes their All-American candidate is at full-speed in the fall. Harry Lentz, Jr. shot the cover photo.

In The Next Issue

A look at spring developments, a review of the basketball season and more in-depth player features.

Huskers Illustrated...

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Letters

Dear Huskers:

As a big Nebraska fan living in Chicago, I greatly appreciate *Huskers Illustrated* and its enthusiastic coverage of Nebraska sports. I love to read anything I can find about Nebraska football. In that light, I would like to make a few comments and suggestions for future issues of *Huskers*.

I would consider the weekly magazine only a slight improvement over the foldovers formerly used. But that is largely because the foldouts contained a wealth of information. I particularly enjoy the game summaries, the color pictures, depth charts of both teams, the field possession chart and Coach Osborne's column. The magazine format does allow for more feature articles, and I especially liked the series on the assistant coaches. The team picture was another nice addition.

In view of my great hunger for news about the Huskers and Husker players, allow me to suggest some things I would like to see in *Huskers Illustrated*. Maybe you can not add them all, but you can't blame me for trying.

(1) A list of all the players who get into each game, especially those days when 90 players get to play. As you know, offensive linemen do not show up in any of the game statistics. I love it when the second- and third-stringers get to play.

(2) Improved coverage of the freshman team. Perhaps a team roster or a two-deep chart.

(3) A list of players being redshirted each year. Did you have one this year? Did I miss it?

(4) Better coverage of players who "disappear" from the team. Unfortunately, many "prize" recruits never play for the team. What happens to them? Perhaps we need a list of players at the beginning of each season who have transferred from Nebraska.

What happened to: John Kline (1981), Bob Bowen (1982), Kevin Blackmer (1982), Lawrence Hart (1982), Don Douglas (1982), Todd Olson (1982), Shannon Davidson (1983), Stephen Thomas (1983).

(5) As a fan who is troubled by recent events in the Big Eight, do we need an article on "What Does Nebraska Need to Do to Beat Oklahoma?" It seems that the momentum and the tide of talent has turned back to Oklahoma. Two more years of Bosworth and three more of Holieway. What do the Huskers have to do to rectify the situation?

Anyway, keep up the good work. I'll be waiting to read future issues, especially

those on football recruiting.

Sincerely,
Keith A. Johnson
Chicago, IL

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks for the suggestions, Keith. We're always willing to listen and make changes that will improve our product. We'll try to remember to include a list of the players who appear in each game next season as well as run a freshman-junior varsity team roster.

We didn't run a list of redshirts this season because those are difficult to assemble. As you know, redshirting doesn't become official until the end of a season.

We've never devoted space to players who disappear because of transfers or quitting because the attitude is, our primary purpose is underscoring the positive aspects of a great program. Understandably, with so many players coming into the program, a few will leave. But there are so many stories to be written about the players who stay and succeed, we don't feel we can use space to write about those who don't.

Don't despair about the back-to-back losses to Oklahoma. The Sooners have to come to Lincoln two years in a row now, and the talent may be more equal than you think next season. Let Oklahoma celebrate its national championship and look to 1986.

Dear Huskers:

I am an avid Husker fan and ever since I was old enough to turn a radio dial, I have tuned into Husker football every fall Saturday. I've watched them on TV every time I got the chance. I even remember one fall Saturday afternoon when I was helping with the corn harvest, I traded jobs with my father so I could unload the trucks. I took a portable TV out to the bins with me so I could watch the Cornhuskers romp over Oklahoma State 56-0. Another afternoon my dad gave me the day off so I could watch the Huskers play Missouri on TV. By the second half the score still 0-0, my brother and my father were sitting behind the set with me and we all let a big sigh of relief when Phil Bates scored the only TD with less than a minute left as the Huskers won 6-0.

Since I live in the western part of the state it's not too easy to get tickets. I have seen only two games in person; the Colorado game in 1982 and the Missouri game in 1984. My greatest regret is that I was only eight years old when the

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Huskers played Oklahoma in the Game of the Century in 1971. So I didn't really know what was going on. My mother loves to tell me the story of how my uncle was getting upset with me because I kept running in front of the TV set as the whole family tried to watch that Thanksgiving Day.

I have schedules and scores from every Husker game since 1928. I was just curious if you could give me a rundown of the scores from the beginning of Nebraska football until 1928.

Thank you & sincerely,

Loren Wagner
Culbertson, NE

EDITOR'S NOTE: Loren, we'll send you those scores. Thanks for the letter.

Dear Huskers:

The following is a list of recruits that I have lost track of. Please tell us where they are.

Bob Bowen, Willie Griffin, Stephen Thomas, Lorenzo Hicks, Pat Woodruff, Andy Keeler, Kris Lamb.

I would like to urge that you publish a roster of active players and redshirt-injured players for those of us who don't get the daily highlights. Who is Dante Wiley?

Brad Hoppes
Springfield, MO

EDITOR'S NOTE: Griffin, Hicks, Keeler and Lamb will all be competing this spring. Lamb was a freshman who had injury problems this fall. The other three were all redshirted. Bowen left the team. Thomas and Woodruff transferred to other schools. Wiley, a defensive back with definite potential according to the coaches, transferred to Nebraska from Pittsburgh but left the team in the fall. It's unclear whether he intends to return.

Dear Huskers:

I listen to the games from Glendale, Calif., and also watch when they are televised. Nebraska has a good team and good head coach and assistant coaches. But your magazine tells it all. Thanks.

L. Vytas
Oceanside, CA

Dear Huskers:

I have been following your "Blue Chip Update" and it is very interesting and informative. I would like to suggest that you look at western Nebraska for

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some Blue Chips.

One player in particular is Shawn Sterling, who plays for the Lewellen Tigers six-man team. He is a 5-foot-10, 150-pound junior who is still growing. The Lewellen Tigers played in the six-man championship primarily due to Sterling's contribution to the team effort. Going into the playoff, he had scored 14 touchdowns and rushed for 656 yards on 56 carries, an average of 9.9 yards per carry. He caught seven passes for 81 yards. Sterling had a 20.6-yard average on punt returns and a 27-yard average on kickoff returns.

There are some fine football players in western Nebraska that you should take a look at.

Sincerely,
Burt Fisher
Lewellen, NE

Dear Huskers:

I am trying to locate a videotape of the Nebraska-Oklahoma 1971 football game. I would appreciate it if you could send me any information regarding how

I could obtain such a tape. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Carol Lou
Concord, CA

EDITOR'S NOTE: We regularly get requests for a videotape of the Game of the Century. Can anyone help? If so, please write us and we'll pass along the information in a future issue.

Dear Huskers:

I appreciate your publication. I would like more acknowledgement on the academic success of the athletic programs.

Is it too early to preview the 1986 season? I hope we do not have to condition ourselves to three or four years of Sooner domination.

Living away from Nebraska, your publication is about the only contact a transplanted Nebraskan has, and here I wish we had a "Michigans for Nebraska" chapter, especially with the Fiesta Bowl.

It would be nice to know the future status of Jason Gamble, Pernell Gatson

and Dana Brinson.

Sincerely,
Kenneth Donald
Mason, MI

EDITOR'S NOTE: Gamble's status remains in doubt. Gatson plans to play next season. We'll know more in the spring, and Brinson should become an outstanding wingback and kick returner in the next few seasons.

Dear Huskers:

The day before the Nebraska-Kansas State game, my dad, brother and I had the great pleasure of meeting Coach Osborne. This is something that my dad was looking forward to because he's been a fan of the Cornhuskers since he was born between Falls City and Rulo, Ne. This man took time out from an obviously busy schedule and came out to meet us, which he didn't have to do. I don't know how many head coaches would do this (probably not many).

We've only seen two live games in our lives, and I will remember them as long as I live. What got to me, though, was that some (not all) Husker fans were cussing and belittling Coach Osborne and the team constantly. I would think that a man who has lost no more than three games in a season would, and should, get respect from the fans. If they're going to follow the team that's great, but don't sit up in the stands and down-grade Coach Osborne for the things he does. It's easy to sit up there in the stands and call plays, but when you're on the field you have to make the call immediately.

In my estimation, Coach Osborne has not made or sent in a bad play.

The Nebraska Cornhuskers are the greatest team coached by the greatest coach in the country. Whether they're 12-0 or 0-12, they go out and play their best.

I hope someday to be able to come to Lincoln and meet Bob Devaney, but for the time being, my dad, brother and I will root for the Huskers every Saturday. I realize this letter would be too big for your letter section, but I would like you to do an article on the subject of Coach Osborne supposedly running up the score.

Well, that's all I've got to say, except I enjoy your magazine very much. Remember to eat, sleep and live Big Red Nebraska football.

A fan for all time,
Vince Foster
Nortonville, KS
Continued on page 13

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Inside Husker sports

close, again

Even though the Nebraska volleyball team came up one match short of advancing to the NCAA Final Four in Kalamazoo, Mich., Coach Terry Pettit's Huskers had another successful season, which included a 10th consecutive Big Eight Conference championship.

Nebraska finished with a 28-3 record and was runner-up to perennial national power Southern Cal in the NCAA Midwest Regional. The Huskers hosted the regional at the Devaney Sports Center.

They advanced by defeating Penn State, 15-8, 15-7, 15-12, in a first-round match, also at the Sports Center, then beat 10th-ranked Purdue 15-1, 16-14, 12-15, 15-11 in the regional semifinals.

Third-ranked USC, the NCAA's fourth seed and a four-time national champion, breezed into the finals with a straight-set victory over Illinois.

A partisan crowd of 3,300 watched Nebraska beat the Trojans 15-5 in the first game of the title match and go up 4-0 in the second game before the veteran Southern Cal team battled back to win 15-11.

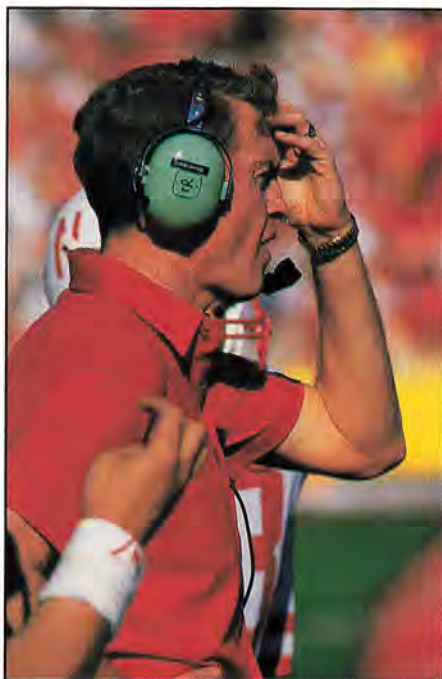
The Huskers lost the third game 15-12 after rallying from an 11-4 deficit to tie. USC jumped out to a 7-0 lead and won the fourth and deciding game 15-7.

Afterward, Pettit attributed the Trojans' success to tournament experience and the rugged West Coast competition they faced throughout the season. "If we played in their conference, I think we'd be one of the top two teams in the country," said Pettit, who completed his ninth season as Nebraska's head coach.

During that time, his teams have compiled a 294-83 record (.780) and won nine conference championships. The Huskers have qualified for post-season tournament play seven times, advancing to the NCAA regionals three of the last four years. Pettit was the 1985 Big Eight Coach of the Year.

Annie Adamczak, a senior from Moose Lake, Minn., became Nebraska's third

volleyball All-American, joining Cathy Noth and Terri Kanouse in winning that recognition. Karen Dahlgren, a junior from Bertrand, was a second-team All-American and a first-team University Division Academic All-American.



Coach Tom Osborne

Dahlgren carries a 3.81 grade-point average (on a 4.0 scale) in business.

Dahlgren, Adamczak (3.14, business), and senior Michelle Smith (3.62, pre-physical therapy) were first-team Academic All-Big Eight.

Kathi DeBoer, a sophomore from Firth, was second-team Academic All-Conference with a 3.40 in physical education.

The Huskers' All-Big Eight first-teamers included Adamczak, Dahlgren and junior Tisha Delaney, picked as the MVP in the conference tournament.

DeBoer and senior Sharon Kramer were second-team All-Big Eight.

Adamczak also was named as the Big Eight's Player of the Year. She agreed with Pettit that if Nebraska had been able to play a West Coast schedule, it could have reached the NCAA Final Four. "In California they play this kind of match every night," Adamczak said following the disappointing loss to Southern Cal. "They're used to this level of play."

The Trojans lost to Stanford in the semifinals of the national tournament.

Nebraska had little trouble winning another Big Eight Tournament title at Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City, Mo. The Huskers swept past Oklahoma in the championship match, 15-5, 15-4, 15-13.

Nebraska's success should continue in 1986. Adamczak, Kramer, and Smith are the only departing seniors.

briefly noted

Nebraska football Coach Tom Osborne's five-year contract was extended by the Board of Regents and he was voted a salary increase following the season.

Osborne says he hopes those actions will dispell the continuing rumors that he plans to retire from coaching.

"I'm continually having to answer to rumors that somehow I'm on the verge of retiring. That's not in any way in my thinking right now. I think the regents are trying to emphasize the fact that they're planning on having a coach and that I'm planning on being the coach," Osborne said during his team's preparations for the Fiesta Bowl.

The Board of Regents also passed a resolution in "great appreciation to Coach Tom Osborne for his continuing exemplary performance."

Among the rumors that persisted following the Fiesta Bowl was one which had Osborne becoming the head coach of the National Football League Houston Oilers. That was finally dispelled in mid-January when the Oilers named Jerry Glanville as their head coach.

In Osborne's 13 seasons at Nebraska, the Cornhuskers have finished in at least one of the two major wire services' final Top 10 polls. That streak remained alive this year when Nebraska was voted 10th in the United Press International coaches' poll. The Cornhuskers were 11th in the Associated Press media poll.

The Lincoln Journal newspaper commissioned a statewide poll to determine how Nebraskans feel about Osborne's job performance. The results showed that 89 percent felt Osborne was doing a good job. Only two percent of the 448 people polled said they disapproved of the job Osborne has done. The remaining nine percent had no opinion.

According to the Associated Press, Nebraska earned approximately \$285,000 as its share of the Big Eight Conference's bowl revenue. The Cornhuskers received two-ninths of the Fiesta Bowl payoff, which figured out to about \$102,000....

Former Cornhusker Roger Craig became the first running back in National Football League history to gain 1,000



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Letters

yards both rushing and receiving in a season. Craig, now a member of the San Francisco 49ers, rushed for 1,050 yards and caught passes for 1,016 yards. He also scored a team-record 15 TDs.

Craig's post-game comments about his accomplishment showed that he hasn't changed much since his days as a Cornhusker. "I didn't want the game stopped," he said. "I didn't want to cause any commotion."

Surprisingly enough, "I didn't know about this record until I got about 700 yards," said Craig. "It feels great to be the first person to do it. My offensive line made it possible."

According to 49er teammate Bill Ring, "Roger, in my opinion, is now the best back in the league."

Husker fans will second that....

Jim Skow, Nebraska's senior All-American defensive tackle, has a pet tarantula named "Mr. T."

Mr. T was a birthday present from his parents. Skow's mom initially gave him a Beta fish, but he asked for an exchange because "I swear, one of my friends would've eaten it."

the honorable thing

The Nebraska football team received its share of post-season awards, led by first-team All-American recognition for center Bill Lewis (Football Writers Association of America) and defensive tackle Jim Skow (Kodak, picked by the American Football Coaches Association).

Lewis, a senior from Sioux City, Iowa, was a second-team Associated Press All-American and received All-American honorable mention from the United Press International. He was a consensus first-team All-Big Eight pick.

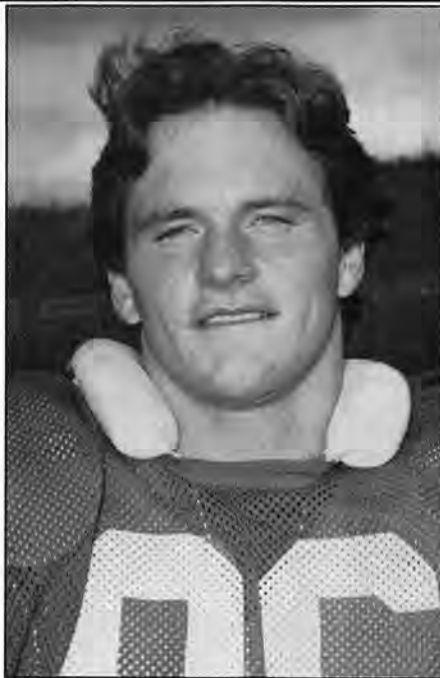
Skow, a senior from Omaha, was a second-team AP All-American and a third-team *Football News* All-American. He was also a consensus All-Conference selection.

Both Lewis and Skow were Cornhusker captains along with senior linebacker Mike Knox from Castle Rock, Colo.

Junior I-back Doug DuBose was a second-team All-American on the UPI team and received honorable mention from the AP. Senior fullback Tom Rathman was a third-team All-American according to the AP, and senior offensive tackle Tim Roth received honorable mention on the team.

Senior offensive guard Brian Blankenship earned All-American honorable mention from both the Associated Press and United Press.

Nebraska's Academic All-Big Eight



Jim Skow

performers were Roth, Blankenship, split end Robb Schnitzler, defensive ends Brad Smith and Scott Tucker and kicker Dale Klein. Schnitzler and Klein will return next season. ♦



Bill Lewis

Continued from page 10

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks for the kind words, Vince. Coach Osborne is everything you say he is.

Dear Huskers (Coach Osborne):

I am 10 years old. I live in Omaha. When I grow up would you take me on your team? I am 67 pounds now. My favorite player is No. 22 (Doug DuBose). Just remember, when you play I will be always there to cheer your team.

Your fan,

Binh Vu

Omaha

P.S. — Your team is awesome.

Dear Huskers:

I have been a subscriber for two years and I enjoy every issue, so keep up the good work. In your November 9 issue, a fan of the Huskers was disturbed by publications which refer to the Cornhuskers as the Huskers, but I like to refer to the name Huskers. One reason is that I am sick and tired of people calling them "Cornbusters" all the time. With the shortened name, they can't think of anything else. And I prefer the Huskers.

There is one question I have to ask. Why does the press always complain that the Huskers always run up the score? The way I see it is that Osborne wants as many players as he can to play the game, so they can get some experience. It's not the team's fault that the third- and fourth-stringers are better than the opponents first and second string. Also, if the Huskers can't beat the point spread, they have something else to say. I believe there shouldn't be a point spread on any team. Whoever wins by one point or by 60 points, it's a win. But it's all right for Oklahoma and Colorado to run up the score. We don't need to throw a touchdown with a few minutes left in the game or kick a field goal when they're winning big already.

So all you Husker fans out there, let's root them on for another Big Eight championship and earn another trip to Miami and become national champions. I would like other responses about running up the score and see what they feel. Huskers will always be No. 1 with me, no matter what happens.

Coloradans for Nebraska

Big Red Fan

Greg Hollis

Denver, CO ♦

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The bottom line is, Steve Taylor makes things happen. That was apparent the first time he stepped onto the artificial surface at Memorial Stadium to play a football game at Nebraska.

The Cornhusker junior varsity, well on its way to a 56-0 rout of Iowa State's out-manned junior varsity, lined up near mid-field for a third-down play.

Taylor, the quarterback, took the snap from center Chris O'Gara, pulled out and started to his left. But when the defense reacted in that direction, he reversed field, rolling back to the right, giving ground as he went, 10 yards, 15 yards...

A pair of Cyclone defenders followed.

Without panic, Taylor surveyed the green expanse, looking for the friendly red jersey of an open receiver as he retreated in the direction of his own goal line, deeper and deeper.

Finally, barely 15 yards from the Nebraska end zone, he spied wingback Richard Bell and released the ball in a perfect spiral which settled in Bell's sure hands near the Iowa State 45-yard line. "Steve makes a lot of things happen," Cornhusker freshman Coach Dan Young said afterward.

The accuracy of that statement has been proven time and time again.

Taylor, who's less than one full year into Nebraska's program, has already made a lot of things happen. For starters, the freshman from Spring Valley, Calif., has made Husker fans realize that everything people said about him when he signed a letter-of-intent a year ago was true.

Considering the reputation he had to uphold, that may have been his greatest freshman accomplishment.

Everyone expected him to be an extraordinary talent. And he is.

Ray Hooper said he would be.

"He and Turner Gill are very, very similar. When you see them, you won't even tell the difference," Hooper said the day Taylor made a verbal commitment to sign a Nebraska letter-of-intent. "They're almost like twins."

How's that for putting pressure on an athlete who's just indicated he wants to be a Cornhusker quarterback?

Gill, a three-time All-Big Eight performer and the man who controlled the 1983 "Scoring Explosion" offense, is the standard against which all Nebraska quarterbacks are measured.

Just like Turner Gill? Can't tell 'em apart? You bet. We all believe it, and if you've got a bridge in Brooklyn for sale, we'll buy that, too.

No offense, though. It's easy to understand a high school coach wanting to say good things about one of his athletes. Hooper coached Taylor during his sophomore year at Edison High in Fresno, Calif., then took him along to Lincoln High in San Diego for his junior and senior years.

Taylor lived with Hooper's family in San Diego during the school year, figuring his chances of earning a major college football scholarship would be enhanced by competing at a larger high school. San Diego Lincoln certainly qualified on that count.

The standard by which all quarterbacks were measured there was Marcus Allen, a Lincoln alum who went on to win the Heisman Trophy as a tailback at USC and the Most Valuable Player award in Super Bowl XVIII as a member of the World Champion Oakland Raiders.

Allen, a quarterback in high school, was the only Lincoln athlete whose football jersey had been retired, until Taylor arrived, that is.

His first year at the school, Taylor passed for 1,763 yards and rushed for 642 yards on a team that finished 7-3. As a senior, he passed for 1,800 yards and 18 touchdowns and rushed for 672 yards and 12 touchdowns. He was picked as the Player of the Year in the Central Conference and was first-team All-California Interscholastic Federation (CIF).

Under his leadership, Lincoln finished with a 7-4 record, losing in the playoffs to Chula Vista, 13-12. According to Hooper, the team would've done even better if he had let Taylor pass more.

The Taylor-Gill comparison can be traced to when Taylor was a high school freshman. "I liked his style," said Taylor, who regularly watched Gill play on television, then went out and tried to emulate him.

"He'd look to both sides, then straight ahead. He was in command all the time. When he dropped back to pass, he didn't tip-toe. And he always held the ball up by his ear," Taylor said.

Taylor strides to the line of scrimmage, exuding the same, unmistakable confidence Gill had. He doesn't tip-toe when he drops back to pass. He holds the ball up by his ear, looks to both sides, then straight ahead. The similarity is striking.

Taylor always knew he wanted to follow Gill at Nebraska. He encouraged Hooper to send films to the Cornhuskers, and even though he also made recruiting visits to Minnesota, California, Colorado and Washington, he never wavered. "Ne-

braska was way, way ahead of everybody on him," said Hooper.

Taylor met Gill during his visit to Lincoln. "He reminded me of myself, the way he looked at things. A lot of guys just want to go out when they get here, meet some girls and party," said Gill, who's back in school after his second professional season with the Montreal Concordes of the Canadian Football League.

Taylor had questions. "He knew what he wanted to ask me about; how it really was here, about Coach (Tom) Osborne and about the academics as well as the athletics," Gill said.

Sometimes the reality isn't equal to the expectations, but that wasn't the case when Taylor met Gill for the first time. That solidified his decision to become a Cornhusker.

"He told me to ask him anything, and he gave me honest answers. We talked a long time about the situation here, about Nebraska playing black quarterbacks and this system," said Taylor, who considered both subjects extremely important.

Gill broke a stereotype, according to Taylor. "I think he opened a door for a lot of black quarterbacks by performing so well and being able to throw the ball. Usually, people say black quarterbacks are great runners and not very good passers, but Turner Gill did both well.

"That's what I've always liked about him, his passing and running as well as his ability to run an offense."

The Nebraska record book provides evidence of that. The Cornhuskers were 28-2 overall and 20-0 in the Big Eight when Gill was the starter. During his career, he completed 231 of 428 passes for 3,317 yards and 34 touchdowns and was intercepted only 11 times.

Gill complemented his passing by averaging 4.5 yards per carry over his entire career, finishing with 1,317 rushing yards and 11 touchdowns.

Given those numbers, Gill had no difficulty convincing Taylor that Osborne has a balanced offensive philosophy. "Nebraska is known for being a running program, but they'll throw the ball, too," said Taylor.

Gill told Taylor he wouldn't find a better quarterback coach than Osborne. "He told me Coach Osborne's not the yelling type, that he's more calm," Taylor said. "That makes a big difference to a quarterback.

"Instead of having somebody just pounding on you, telling you what you're doing wrong, Coach Osborne lets you know what you're doing right, too. I think he's a great coach."

Taylor did enough things right for the Cornhusker jayvees and the varsity quarterback situation was unsettled enough that he earned a permanent promotion prior to the final junior varsity game.

Gill didn't establish himself at Nebraska

as quickly as Taylor did. When Osborne asked him if he felt ready to practice with the varsity during his freshman year, Gill said no.

"I told him I'd rather not. I felt it was best for me to learn the system. Coming out of high school, I had to adjust, and I didn't want to take too much on myself the first year," Gill said. "I knew I'd get an opportunity to start my second year. My sophomore year, I felt I was ready to play."

Gill, who set an NU freshman total offense record, threw a school record-tying four touchdown passes in his first varsity start.

Even in retrospect, Gill doesn't regret waiting. "I wanted to get my feet on the ground," he said. "You can put too much pressure on yourself, and something will suffer, either football or your studies."

Taylor has adapted to the pressure, displaying a maturity that impresses Gill. It doesn't surprise him, though. "Everybody has to know their own feelings," said Gill, whose advice to Taylor is to follow his own feelings and trust Osborne, the person to whom he says he owes much of his success.

"Coach Osborne talked to me and helped me a lot as a person, not just strictly as an athlete," Gill said.

Taylor has shown that he possesses the skills to be another Gill. He's about the same size as Gill, who stood 6-0 and weighed 188 pounds as a Cornhusker senior. Taylor is 6-foot-0 and 182.

"Turner Gill wasn't all that big. That's what surprised me when I met him. But he was durable," Taylor said.

Taylor is faster than Gill. In fact, he's the fastest quarterback in school history. And he's strong enough to take the beating to which a major college quarterback is subjected.

That strength can't always be measured with a bench press.

"I don't believe in statistics the way a lot of people do. You have to be strong enough to take the punishment and not be hurt. You can't be small, but I think I have good enough size, and I'm durable," Taylor said.

His emotional durability is such that he's been able to perform, despite what often seem to be unrealistic expectations on the part of the fans. A single carry in the varsity's 41-3 victory over Kansas State in Manhattan illustrates the point.

Late in the game, Osborne sent in Taylor, who kept on an option and raced 32 yards before being knocked out-of-bounds. The play was in sharp contrast to the first carry of his varsity career. In the third game of the season against Oregon, Taylor was thrown for a two-yard loss.

By the Kansas State game, however, Taylor's reputation for making things happen was firmly established. He'd played in four junior varsity games and

been involved in 12 touchdowns, seven running and five passing.

He averaged nine yards a carry as a runner, and he completed 19 of 32 passes for 425 yards and five TDs.

The Nebraska fans, who accounted for about half the audience at KSU Stadium, knew all about Taylor. When the stadium public address announcer identified Taylor, No. 11, as "Jeff Tomjack," they weren't fooled.

They knew Tomjack hadn't made the trip and that No. 11 was Taylor. That Turner Gill stride, as he trotted onto the field, eliminated any confusion.

It was Taylor, all right, and everyone figured he was about to make something happen, which, of course, he did.

"You've got to remember, what happens when you're ahead 34-3 is not the same," Osborne said later.

Few people listened. They all knew Taylor was the genuine article.

He reinforced that belief in the Sunkist Fiesta Bowl, coming off the bench early in the fourth quarter to direct a rally which almost was enough.

On his first carry against Michigan, his second play from scrimmage, Taylor ran for 25 yards. On his third play, he completed an eight-yard pass.

Before the drive ended, with an incomplete pass on fourth down, Taylor had taken the Cornhuskers to the Wolverine 19-yard line.

On Nebraska's next possession, Taylor drove the team 77 yards to score, getting the final yard himself. He had two runs of 12 yards in the series and a seven-yard pass completion.

Taylor ran and passed and frustrated the Wolverine defense in much the same way he had frustrated defenders in the four junior varsity games he played.

In a 30-7 victory over Coffeyville, Kan., Community College, a perennial junior college power that helped prepare Nebraska Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier, Taylor ran 62 yards for a touchdown on the game's fourth play from scrimmage.

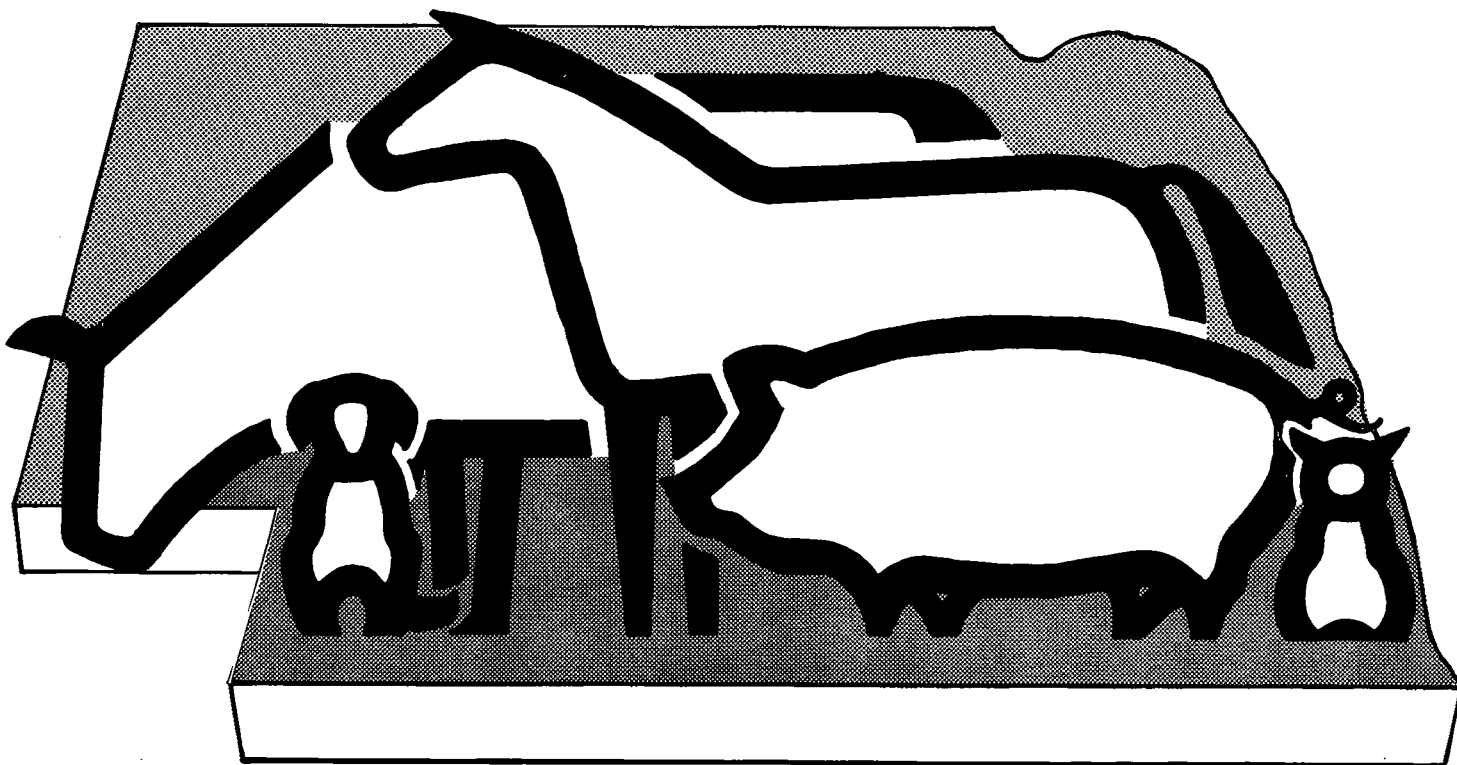
Taylor finished the game with 90 rushing yards on six carries and completed seven of 13 passes for 113 yards and one touchdown, a 27-yarder to tight end Bump Novacek.

Such a performance was typical for Taylor, who never stopped making things happen.

After the game Dick Foster, Coffeyville's veteran head coach, praised several of the Cornhusker freshmen, including Taylor.

"Taylor is as good as I've ever seen. I've been coaching in college for 20 years, and I've never seen a quarterback who could do the things he does," Foster said.

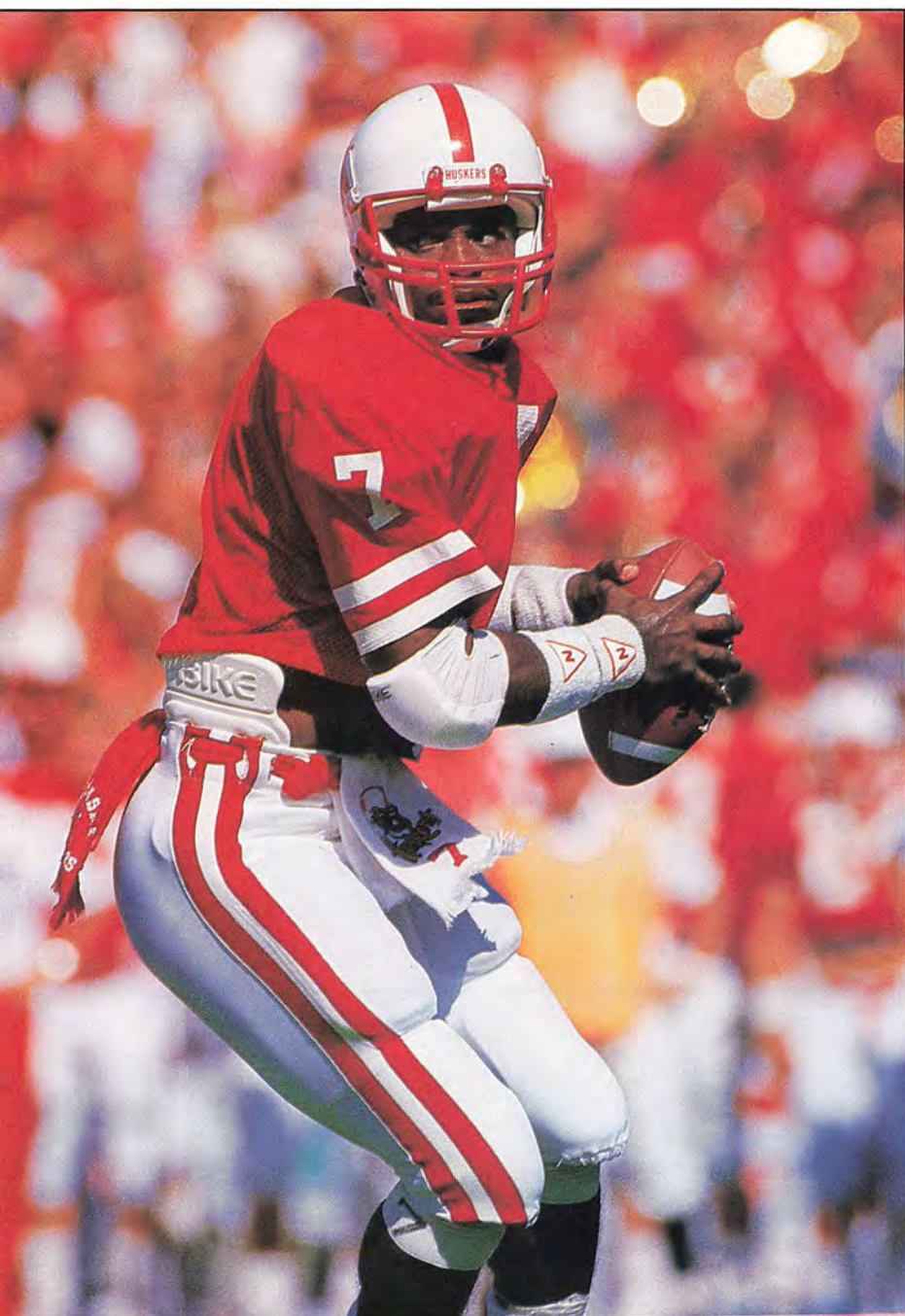
With Taylor in the game, remarkable things seem to happen, even when it appears at first glance that he's in retreat. ♦



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Clayton proved he could run, now he needs to improve his passing. (Opposite page), Clayton had a career game at Oklahoma State, showing just how talented he is.

Clayton Learned In 1985

Now he hopes to put those lessons to work for him and the Huskers in 1986.

By Curt McKeever

The feelings that McCathorn Clayton exhibits toward the University of Nebraska and Jones High School at Orlando, Fla., are quite similar.

He's in love.

And there's no reason why Nebraska's starting quarterback should feel any different. Both institutions paved the way for his current success.

But not without trying much of his patience.

First came his freshman season at Nebraska, when he split time with Jeff Taylor and Hendley Hawkins.

"That was something that none of us liked because you just got into the game and would get the feel of it and then you'd get taken out," Clayton said. "It was just something that you had to do."

Clayton's next season was even more trying, and also something that the NU coaches felt had to be done — spent as a redshirt.

"Redshirting was tough because I really wanted to contribute my sophomore year," Clayton said. "Maybe I had better ability than (then quarterbacks) Craig Sundberg or Travis Turner, but situations

I would get into on the field I could see myself reacting differently than they would. I knew I was faster than Craig or Travis, and was stronger and could maybe throw further, but they could handle it. Since I couldn't I knew it was something they had that I needed to learn."

That needed lesson occurred with the scout squad for duty against the No. 1 defense.

"I played against the Black Shirts every day, and if you make first team defense then you're one of the best players in the nation. I played my hardest and did some

successful things against them that gave me a lot of confidence."

The progress was showing. The patience was paying off. The potential was being realized.

"But I still had to work on some things...consistency and taking care of the ball," Clayton said. "When we were scrimmaging that was what was holding me back. Coach Osborne stressed this to me and when I worked on those things and did them better that separated me a little (from the other quarterbacks). It was all a matter of me putting everything together and just playing the type of ball I could play."

The style Clayton developed earned him a starting assignment in all but two of the Cornhusker's games last season. After a season-opening loss to Florida State — a game in which Clayton played little — the 6-foot-0, 195-pounder helped Nebraska win nine consecutive games. What then followed was not pretty.

First came the 27-7 loss to Oklahoma that dethroned Nebraska from its four-year hold as Big Eight Conference champions. A 27-23 loss to Michigan in the Sunkist Fiesta Bowl was the Achilles heel.

Suddenly, a successful season had turned sour and was looked upon negatively by many Nebraska followers. In the process, Clayton found himself in the center of a media controversy over who should be the Cornhuskers' starting quarterback. What about Steve Taylor, the freshman sensation from San Diego?

The so-called controversy still brews, and through it all, Clayton has endured.

"This past year I think really contributed to me," Clayton said. "I feel that it was very helpful to learn about different pressures...how to play here under Coach Osborne and under these fans. They can be your best friends at times and your enemy at others. One thing about these fans is that they're great fans, but they're spoiled to winning."

"Everybody loves to win and if the fans can put themselves in our shoes, hey, we love to win, too. If we lose they really take it hard, but do they think we take it softly?"

"This past season, I'm very happy about. We went 9-3 in a rebuilding season and that's going to help a lot. That game we lost to Michigan was just because of ourselves. We know that we were capable of beating them by two or three touchdowns. It was just the mistakes we made and that comes with (lack of) experience, that comes with playing in your first bowl game. A lot of us playing in the Fiesta Bowl were playing in our first bowl game."

The same held true for the Oklahoma game.

"You've got to get the feel of the game. That Oklahoma-Nebraska game was so publicized and supposed to be so big," Clayton said. "But when I got through

there, it was nothing. Different teams and different players get psyched out.

"But the way we got beat I'm anxious to play Oklahoma again. They're just players and they put their pants on the same way we do. I have a very positive feeling about the next time we play them. I have a very positive feeling about this 1986-87 season."

Clayton wasn't always so optimistic.

There were those trying third and fourth grade years when he was playing flag football while many of his friends were playing in an organized tackle league.

"I was never at the top of the group then," Clayton said. "When they would pick a team to play, maybe I'd get picked and maybe I wouldn't."

A move to another district in Orlando "about 35 or 40 minutes away from where I used to live" gave Clayton new hope. So did a national title in the Punt, Pass and Kick competition he earned as an 11-year-old.

A running back through sixth grade, Clayton quickly was switched to quarter-

back. He worked his way into a starting job for the Edenville Rockets — a team comprised of players in seventh through ninth grades — his very first season.

But yet another setback, a broken ankle suffered on the first play of scrimmage in his first game, knocked out that season. The next year, however, Clayton led his squad to the city championship, a game played at the Citrus Bowl before a crowd of nearly 10,000.

"We always played after the Florida Classic game between Bethune-Cookman and Florida A&M," Clayton said. "Everybody would go to the junior high championship because it was a really big game and they all wanted to see what type of caliber players the high schools would be getting in a year or two."

Clayton's final junior high season was a disappointment. "In the past 13 years the junior high school I went to has lost three games," he said. One of those losses was handed out in that year's championship.

"That was one of the biggest losses I've ever suffered through," Clayton said. "We





Clayton made his first start against Illinois.

were supposed to have the best heralded team — fast, strong, everything — and when we lost it was a big upset. It was very tough even at that age."

But again, Clayton persevered, and decided to enroll at Jones High, a school of 1,200 he cherished as a kid.

"Jones High School was a type of school that...in my eighth grade year they were 0-10. My ninth grade year they were 0-10. When I went there they couldn't believe that myself, Gene Chealy (a current Husker) and another quarterback who's playing free safety at Missouri now (Ron Mitchell) didn't go somewhere else," Clayton said.

"But all my brother and I did was attend Jones High School games. Even though they lost and would be 0-10, there was just something about Jones High School. They would lose by a touchdown or less. One game they had like six touchdowns called back and we knew that something was wrong because when I was in junior high this team had two guys go to Notre Dame, two that went to the University of Florida, a couple guys went to Oklahoma and Kan-

sas. They were always getting recruited by big major colleges."

And as a high school sophomore, Clayton was beginning to think about college. His junior season drew him All-American recognition by *Street & Smith* magazine. By the time he was a senior, Clayton had become the No. 1 quarterback recruit of Michigan and a number of other schools. Not even a dislocated left wrist Clayton suffered in the fifth game (which sidelined him for the season) decreased the number of those wanting his services.

"That season I talked with coaches like Bear Bryant, Joe Paterno and Gerry Faust after games," Clayton said.

But it wasn't until Nebraska assistant Gene Huey showed up that Clayton started getting serious about his future.

"A lot of coaches came in really relaxed and advertised their school to me," Clayton said. "They'd say, 'You've got to come to our school because it's the best.'"

"Coach Huey came in and was down to earth. He'd tell me, 'We'll tell you what we think of you and what we have to offer

you,' and a lot of coaches were more like, 'Hey, we know you're good and I think that if you come to our school, I think you'll play varsity football and maybe get a chance to start.' Coach Huey said that I'd have to come in and work. That 'we recruit good quarterbacks like yourself and you're going to have to compete. There's a chance you could make varsity, but we've got a freshman team that's very good and we put a lot of emphasis on freshmen to play with the freshman team.'"

Maybe Clayton wanted the competition, because when Florida and Florida State mentioned the possibility of another position, Clayton lost interest in those schools.

He arrived at Lincoln thinking that a year on the freshman team might be of some benefit, but "also a little too overconfident."

"I thought I could make varsity (eventually)," Clayton said. "I felt I could play with Turner Gill. It was a learning experience from the beginning, because when I came here, not only couldn't I play with Turner Gill, I couldn't play with Nate Mason, I couldn't play with Craig Sundberg. I had to sit back and learn the system, that was very different for me."

So he practiced...and learned. He obviously studied hard and is anxious to push forward, free, he says, of too much pressure.

"Do I have pressure coming into spring ball? Not at all," Clayton said. "I really do feel that I know what I can do now and I know that at times I didn't play up to par, but I know why I didn't. I know what Coach Osborne expects of me."

And about his competition?

"My competition is good...Steven Taylor, Clete Blakeman, Jeff Taylor, Wendell Wooton and all those guys. The way I feel about it myself is that I'm the No. 1 quarterback and it's my job to motivate the team and to play well. But it's not pressure on me."

"The only person I'm playing against is myself. I'm going to try and better this year's play from last year's. I'm not going to say, 'OK, I've got these guys behind me that I've got to watch and if they play good, oh God, I've got to play good.'"

"I feel like I'm going to have a good spring so there's not any pressure from anybody. I know if I play up to my potential I'll be the No. 1 quarterback. I think the season's going to go well for me."

It's just a feeling, but gut instinct has done a lot for McCathorn Clayton. ♦

We've got your game plan.



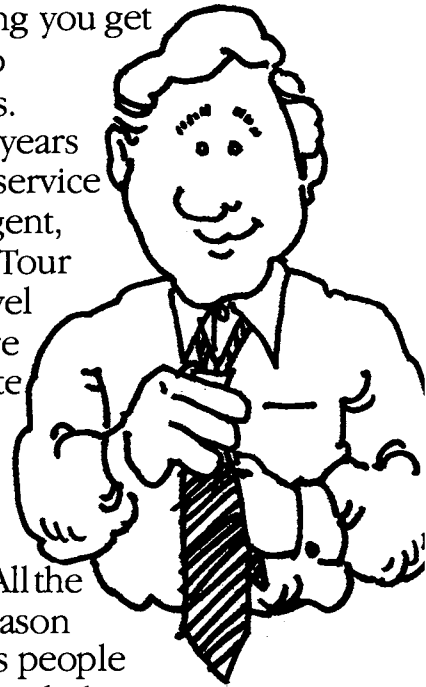
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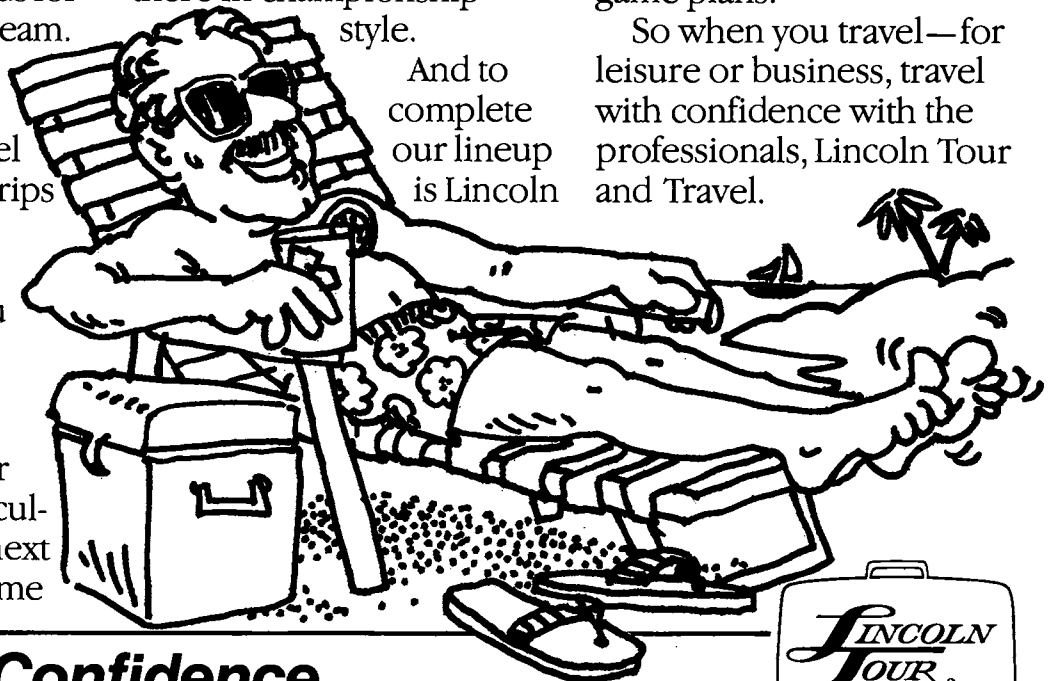
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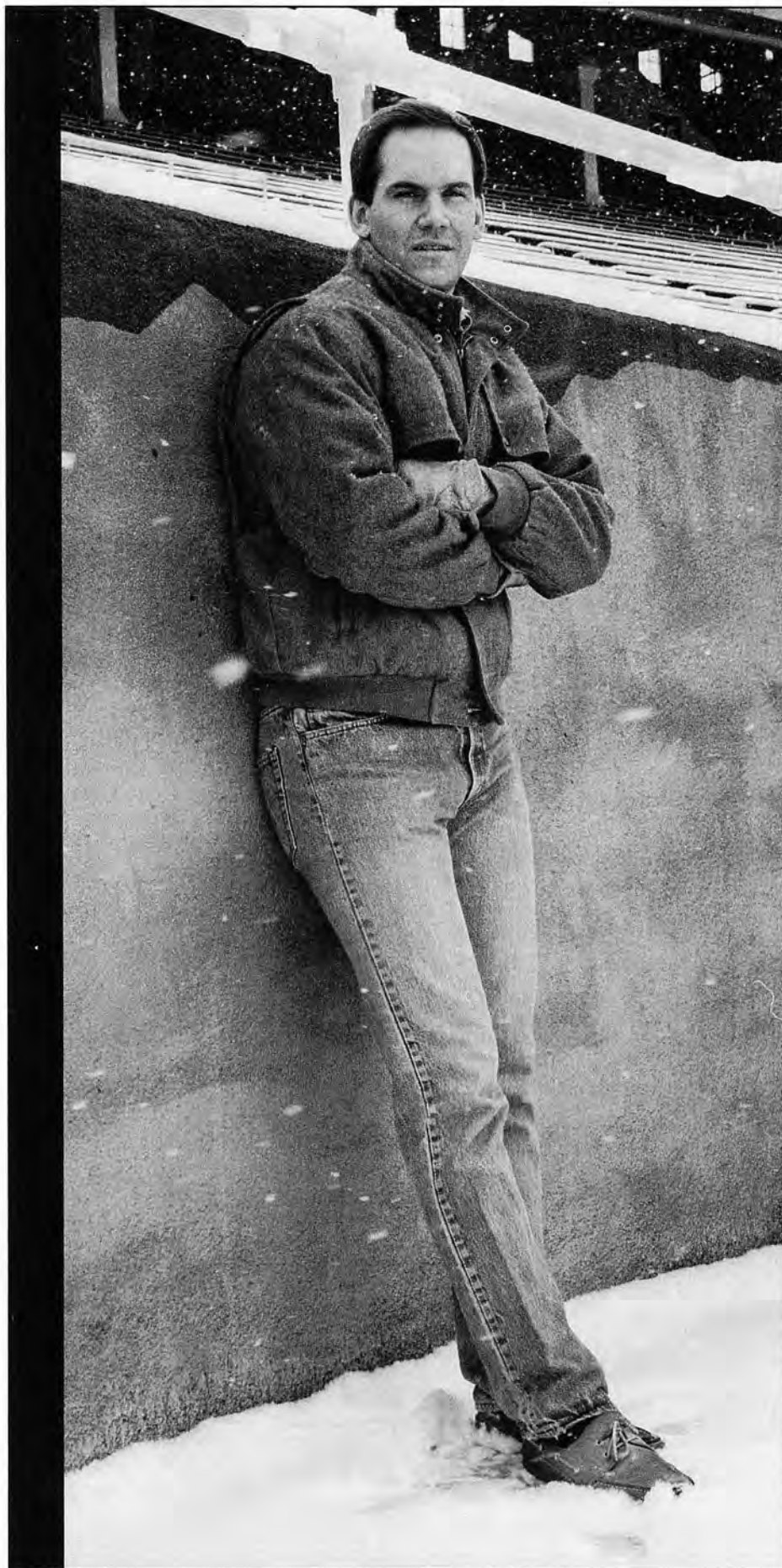
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Blakeman Looking Forward To Heat Of QB Race

By Curt McKeever

Somewhere around eighth or ninth grade, Norfolk's Cleve Blakeman stopped hotdoggin' it at the University of Nebraska football games he attended. Little did he realize at the time that becoming a student of the game may have helped him wind up as a recruit of the Cornhuskers a few years later.

Now a redshirt junior at Nebraska, Blakeman has worked his way up to the No. 3 quarterback position behind senior McCathorn Clayton and sophomore Steven Taylor.

"I was so small, probably around five or so, when I saw my first Nebraska game,"

Blakeman said. "What I can remember when I was little is that I wasn't really worried much about the games...it was more the hot dogs and stuff like that."

Soon, however, Blakeman began to take less and less interest in the hot dogs being slinged around him in the stands and started paying more and more attention to the footballs being rifled on the playing field.

"When I got a little older I started watching more closely because I'd get to the game earlier," Blakeman said. "Sometimes my dad would find a single ticket and I'd ride down with some couples sometimes; people I hardly even knew, but I really didn't mind that because I was watching the game and seeing what was going on. I'd get there early enough to go down and watch warmups.

Perhaps coincidentally, around the time Blakeman began concentrating on the NU contests, he was switched from the running back position he had played since his flag football days to quarterback by his Norfolk ninth grade coach. Soon after playing the position, Norfolk High School Coach Hal Kuck began to take notice.

"There were two people that were pretty decent that we were watching in that class," Kuck said. "One of them was a young man by the name of Roger Miller (whom would become Blakeman's favorite receiver in high school) and the other was Clete."

And with not even a year's experience, "Clete was becoming a very good quarterback then," Kuck said.

For Blakeman, the quarterback position "just kind of materialized."

"I played split time as a quarterback in ninth grade and started really concentrating on it as a sophomore," he said. "I really don't know how it happened because I didn't really have great speed. I just decided to give it a shot and as time went by I got more accustomed to it."

Through studying.

"If there's one position that's a lot different from others, it's quarterback because you've got all sorts of things you have to be thinking about."

By his junior year, Blakeman had impressed his coaches so much that in Norfolk's season-opener Kuck inserted his relatively inexperienced quarterback in the game late in the first half after a two-year letterman had struggled.

Blakeman proceeded to drive the Panthers to a touchdown "with like 20 seconds to go before halftime."

"But when we came out of the locker-room I didn't really know if I'd start or not, but Coach Kuck kept me in and things just worked out."

The Panthers rallied to win the game and the quarterback job belonged to Blakeman.

"That year, we had a quarterback by the name of Jim Kruse who was a super passer,

and Clete was probably in a position where he was just coming up through the ranks," Kuck said. "He was very technique sound and spent a lot of time in camps and a lot of time in the offseason and that really helped him out.

"Anytime you looked out on the football field, regardless of the time of day, he was out there."

For Blakeman's senior season, 1982, Kuck altered Norfolk's passing-dominated offense to a better-balanced attack. The result was a berth in the Class A state high school playoffs and had college coaches eager for Blakeman's services.

"Clete became a very good student of the game. He was reading defenses well and executed the offense. He was a very decent thrower, but at the same time ran the option very well," Kuck said. "At the end of the year I don't think there was a 100 yards difference between our rushing yards and our passing yards.

"He's just a super coachable young man with good leadership. His teammates respected him because he got the job done. But one of the things that made him one of the best quarterbacks we've had at Norfolk during my time here was his ability to become a threat when a play would break down. We took a pretty good Grand Island team into overtime that year and we beat them because of that ability of his. The play just didn't materialize like we wanted and he ran the ball in for a touchdown."

Norfolk lost its first-round playoff game to Omaha Northwest, but soon after Blakeman announced that he had turned down scholarships to Kansas and Iowa State and would attend Nebraska. Despite having fulfilled a dream of his, Blakeman's first fall camp turned into a major disappointment.

"I got injured during the last scrimmage, the Saturday before school started and about a week or so before our first game," Blakeman said.

The injury to his back made him a regular patient in the training room for four weeks. With Nebraska already possessing freshman quarterbacks Clayton, Jeff Taylor and Hendley Hawkins, the decision was made to redshirt Blakeman.

The next spring, partly because of his lack of playing time, Blakeman was at the bottom of the Cornhusker depth chart. Seeing his name there was motivation enough.

"I don't think I had ever been last in anything (athletically) and that really got me going," Blakeman said. "I had decided that I wasn't going to stay there very long."

When the Huskers opened fall camp in 1984, Blakeman was listed only behind senior Craig Sundberg and junior Travis Turner and though he didn't see a lot of playing time, Blakeman remained poised.

"I kept thinking that this is a good sys-

tem for me," he said. "It's the same type of offense I ran in high school."

And as a freshman, being No. 3 on the depth chart was an accomplishment in itself. In 1985, Blakeman remained at that spot after Clayton returned from his red-shirt season to share starting duties with Turner.

He also began concentrating more on games situations.

"I'm pretty involved during games," he said. "I try to look at what's happening and look at what the defense is trying to do against us."

Against Kansas State, he threw his first touchdown pass as a Cornhusker, and after Turner was sidelined before the Oklahoma game, Blakeman became backup to Clayton. But NU Coach Tom Osborne, called on the freshman Taylor after the Huskers had fallen behind 27-0...citing Taylor's big-play capability as the main reason for not playing Blakeman.

The Sunkist Fiesta Bowl game against Michigan offered Blakeman no consolation either, as Taylor led a Nebraska rally in the fourth quarter that just fell short.

Blakeman seems to take his role among the quarterbacks rather well. With the media focusing more on who will guide the 1986 Cornhuskers, he stresses consistency more than ever.

"I think the quarterbacks are pretty close," he said. "It's not like we're out there to show each other that we're better, it's just one guy's ability against another's."

"You can't worry about making mistakes; they happen. But you want to be as consistent and make as few as possible. I don't sit and worry about what's going to happen the first time I get thrust into a pressure situation."

Blakeman, who was also a standout high school basketball player at Norfolk, "knew all along that I'd play football in college." His father, who was an all-state player at Norfolk, and older brother Brad helped him realize that.

"I used to go watch him (Brad) play and I've seen Dad's clips," Blakeman said. "My parents have been real supportive, but it's not like they pushed me into athletics."

Blakeman's father is a golf pro at Papillion, while his mother teaches at Norfolk.

"He got that job the summer before my senior year and I remember there was all this talk that we'd be moving," Blakeman said. "But it all worked out."

Somehow, it's not hard to believe that Blakeman's junior and senior seasons will all work out, too.

"Being a part of the team has been a major part of my life," he said. "I think last season (which ended with the Sunkist Fiesta Bowl loss to Michigan) will carry over positive because we had a young team. I think with this team, we aren't looking back...if you look back things can happen that you weren't prepared for. In football, it's the present that matters." ♦

Necessity is the mother of invention. That's why Tyreese Knox will be a fullback when Nebraska begins spring football practice on March 31.

With the departure of Tom Rathman, an All-Big Eight fullback, the Cornhuskers are looking for someone to join Ken Kaelin and Dan Casterline in the competition for that key position. And Knox will be the man.

Knox, who will be a third-year sophomore next season, has the size to play fullback. No doubt about that. He stands 6-0 and weighs 225 pounds. But he's always had a mind to play I-back.

In fact, he's always been an I-back, unless you count the one game he played at fullback his freshman year in high school. It's only been recently that Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne was able to convince Knox that opportunity knocked for him if he'd switch to fullback.

When Osborne suggested a similar experiment a year ago, Knox said thanks but no thanks. To him, it didn't seem all that grand. He was convinced he could play I-back at Nebraska. As a matter of fact, he still does.

Prior to this year's Oklahoma game, he was still planning on playing I-back in the spring. "I felt really positive about it," said Knox. "This spring would've told me a lot. I thought I could show the coaches I was ready."

But with Doug DuBose, who ranks sixth on Nebraska's all-time rushing list, returning for his senior season, and Keith Jones ready to play on a regular basis, Knox realized his future might be brighter at fullback than I-back.

Rathman helped him come to that realization, not by anything he said, but rather by what he did. The senior from Grand Island established a school single-season record for rushing yards by a fullback, gaining 881 on 118 carries. That's an average of 7.5 yards per attempt, a statistic to which a former I-back can relate.

"That opened my eyes," Knox said.

Cornhusker fullbacks are expected to block, but they're also expected to carry the ball.

Knox knows a little something about carrying a football. As an I-back at Jefferson High School in Daly City, Calif., he broke the California prep record for rushing yards in a career, 5,214, and scored 78 touchdowns. As a senior, he rushed for 1,994 yards and scored 30 touchdowns, even though he missed two and a half games.

Knox redshirted his first year at Nebraska because of injuries, then led the Cornhusker jayvees in rushing last fall, gaining 483 yards. He averaged nearly nine yards per carry and scored five touchdowns...as an I-back.

An adjustment to fullback will require



Spring Presents For Knox, Other

Job openings found in offensive line, at defensive end and fullback. And, of course, there's the big battle at quarterback.

his learning how to block, something Knox has never had to do on a regular basis. "But I'm not afraid to stick my head in there," he said.

Aside from experience as a blocker,

Knox seems to have the qualities necessary to be a fullback. If he succeeds in making the transition, in fact, he'll become the fastest fullback in Nebraska history. He's been timed at :04.44 in the 40-yard dash.



Defensive coordinator Charlie McBride will have the nucleus of this Fiesta Bowl defense back when spring drills open.

looking for some depth at center, something which also might require shifting a player to a new position.

Brad Johnson, a 6-3, 275-pound senior-to-be from Ralston, will move to center in the spring after playing offensive guard last fall. He came to Nebraska as an offensive tackle.

The graduation of All-American Bill Lewis opens a big hole in the offensive line. The most experienced player at that position is Mark Cooper, Lewis' back-up. Cooper, a 6-1, 245-pound junior out of Lincoln East High School, "needs to get a little bigger and a little stronger," Osborne said.

Jeff Sellentin, another senior-to-be from West Point, is the only other letterman returning at center.

If he can find a center in the spring, Osborne is optimistic about the potential to have a good offensive line next season. "At the other spots we're not going to be too bad," he said.

Guard John McCormick and tackle Tom Welter figure to handle the right side. Both started in the Fiesta Bowl.

Stan Parker, listed behind McCormick on the Fiesta Bowl depth chart, will probably move over and up to become the No. 1 left guard, leaving Mike Hoefler and Ron Galois as experienced back-ups.

Andy Keeler, a sophomore, will compete for a job at guard after spending a red-shirt season. The former prep All-American out of Burke High School in Omaha and brother of former Cornhusker defen-

sive captain Mike Keeler, figures to be one of the most prominent new faces on the varsity roster.

The other experienced offensive tackles besides Welter include Keven Lightner and Rob Maggard, who was a back-up on both sides last fall.

Tim Rother and Bill Macias are juniors-to-be who could be ready to make a move at tackle this spring.

Todd Frain, a reliable tight end for three seasons, must be replaced. His back-ups were Tom Banderas and Todd Millikan. Banderas, a junior-to-be from Oak Grove, Mo., caught only two passes last fall, both of which went for touchdowns. Millikan is a converted linebacker who's just beginning to get a feel for tight end.

Willie Griffin, who sat out last fall getting squared away in the classroom, returns and could be a formidable presence at tight end if he's not quite so formidable by the time spring drills begin. At the start of winter conditioning, he weighed 266 pounds.

Perhaps the subject of biggest question to be answered in the spring regarding the offense is quarterback, where McCathorn Clayton, Steve Taylor and Clete Blakeman are the most prominent, with Wendell Wooten coming off a red-shirt to join the competition.

Clayton, who will be a junior, started all but two games last fall, finishing with 28 pass completions in 78 attempts for 602 yards and three touchdowns. He was intercepted seven times.

Chance Huskers

Only Jones, whose :04.33 ranks as the fastest 40 in NU football history, and Dana Brinson are faster than Knox. Brinson, a wingback, has :04.41 speed.

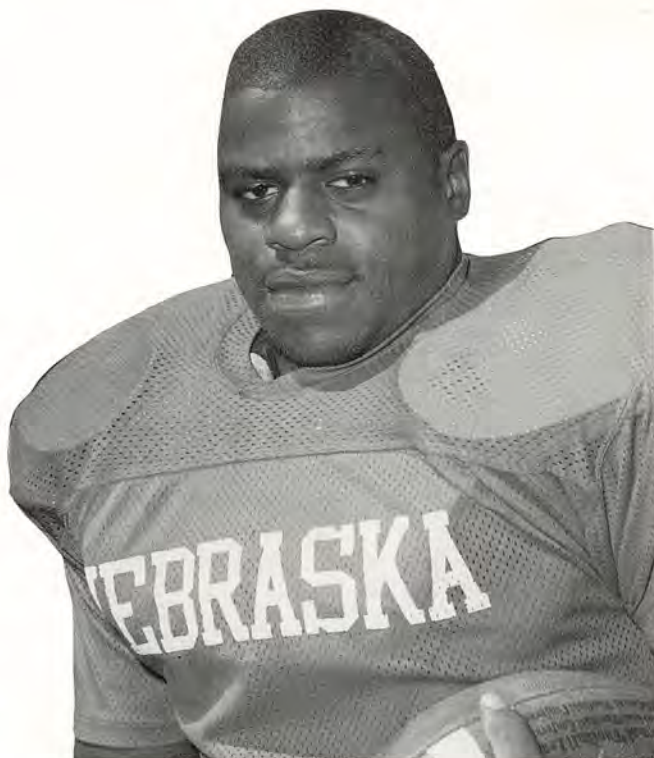
Mark Schellen holds the school record for fullbacks (:04.51). Rathman's best 40 time was :04.6.

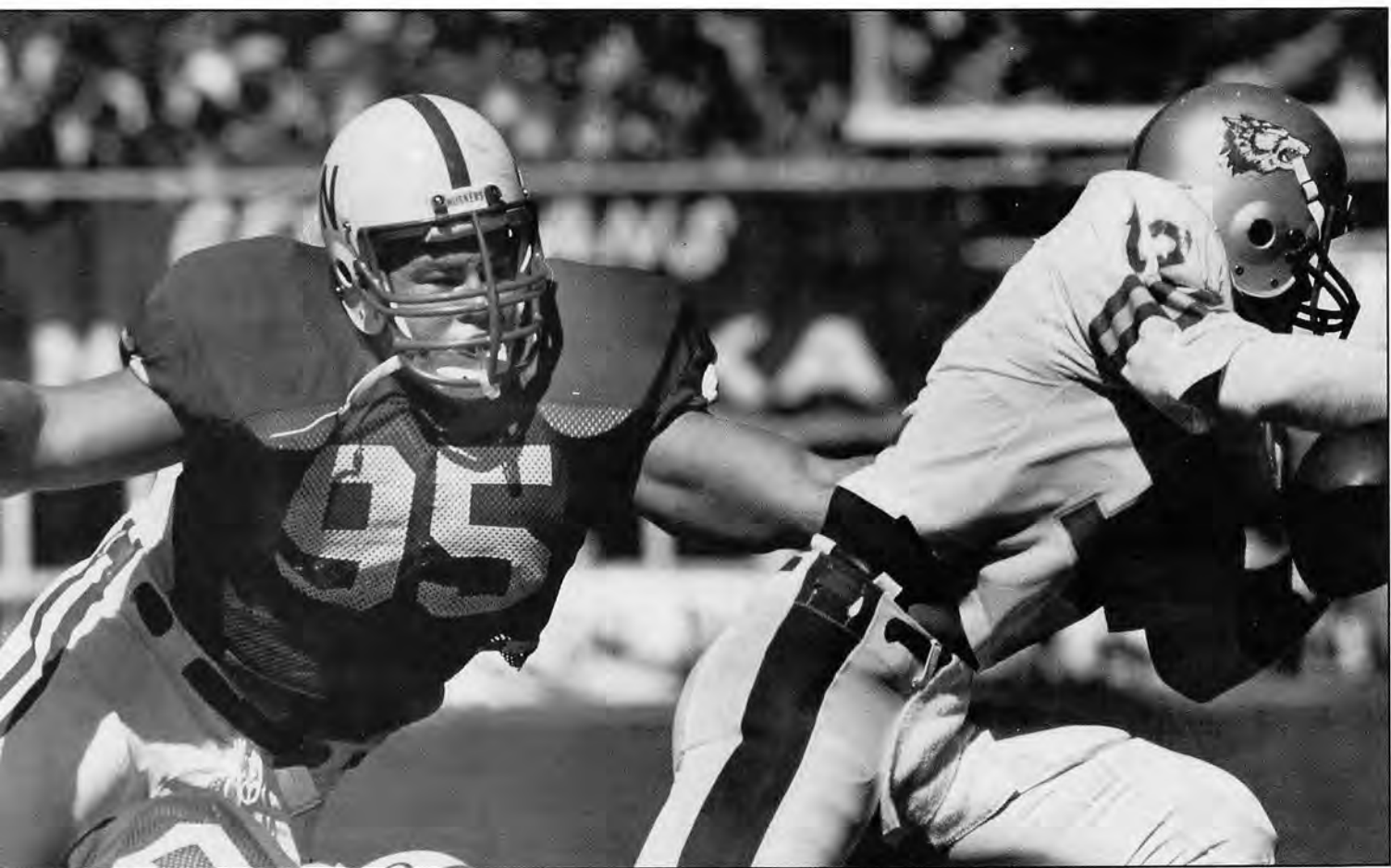
Even though he doesn't figure to be an I-back anymore, Knox hasn't changed his goal of rushing for 1,000 yards in a season. Now he'd like to become the first Nebraska fullback to do it.

The Cornhuskers would like to get that kind of production from their fullback. That's why Osborne wants to experiment with Knox there in the spring, "to see if he can give us a little more running threat," said Osborne.

Moving Knox to fullback probably will be the most significant of Osborne's spring experiments, however, he'll also be

Tyreece Knox hopes to fill void at fullback.





Danny Noonan (95) will lead a defensive line that needs to build depth this spring.

Clayton's strength, of course, was as a runner. He gained 290 yards on 83 carries and scored five touchdowns.

Taylor appeared briefly in five regular-season games and came on early in the fourth quarter of the Fiesta Bowl to spark the Cornhuskers' dramatic rally.

For the season, the much-publicized freshman from Spring Valley, Calif., averaged 7.4 yards on his 14 carries, and he completed three of six passes. Against Michigan in the Fiesta Bowl, Taylor rushed for 76 yards and scored Nebraska's final touchdown.

Blakeman, a junior-to-be from Norfolk, appeared in seven games, completing three of five passes for 22 yards and carrying seven times for 65 yards.

"I think our quarterbacks should be good," Osborne said, expressing something that comes as no surprise.

With DuBose and Jones as the top two going into the spring, it's also not surprising that Osborne thinks "our I-backs should be good."

DuBose needs a good spring to prepare himself for a possible run at the Heisman Trophy. Jones, who gained 240 yards and scored three touchdowns as a back-up in his first full season with the varsity, is good enough to be a starter at most schools.

With Jon Kelley, one of the best athletes on the team, the Cornhuskers can go three-deep with experience at I-back, even if Knox stays at fullback.

Nebraska appears to be equally blessed at wingback and split end.

Though steady Roger Lindstrom is gone, Von Sheppard and Brinson, a pair of proven game-breakers, return at wingback.

Sheppard was a multi-purpose back last fall. Not only was he the team's second leading receiver, catching nine passes for 281 yards and two TDs, but he also ran with the ball — 21 carries for 295 yards and four touchdowns — and returned punts and kickoffs.

Brinson has similar versatility, tempered by a year's experience.

Among the other wingbacks who will be competing this spring are Ray Nelson and Pernell Gatson, who missed all of last season with a knee injury.

The top three split ends all return, with senior-to-be Robb Schnitzler heading the list. The walk-on from Battle Creek led the team in pass receptions, catching 16 for 382 yards and two touchdowns.

Rod Smith, who'll be a junior, played almost as much as a starter, catching eight passes for 121 yards.

Hendley Hawkins, who was the No. 3

split end on the Fiesta Bowl depth chart, will be pushed for playing time in the spring by sophomore Lorenzo Hicks, a redshirt last fall.

It appears Jason Gamble, a split end who was felled by a knee injury a year ago, won't practice this spring.

Linebacker Marc Munford won't practice in the spring, but he's determined to return in the fall. Without him, the competition for playing time will be spirited. Kevin Parsons, who started alongside Mike Knox in the Fiesta Bowl, is back and has the most experience.

Freshman LeRoy Etienne, who figured to play a lot against Michigan but got hurt on his first play in, can bypass a redshirt with a good spring. "LeRoy can be a fine player," said Osborne.

Steve Forch, a senior-to-be, already has earned two letters. Doug Welniak lettered on the special teams.

In addition, Steve DeShazer and Brad Ferguson had solid freshman seasons at linebacker with the junior varsity and will get a good look in the spring.

Three of the top four defensive ends on the Fiesta Bowl depth are gone, so that position will draw a lot of attention during the spring. Nevertheless, "in terms of athletic ability, we might be fairly decent there," Osborne said.

The top two defensive ends going into spring practice are Broderick Thomas, who gained valuable varsity experience as a true freshman, and senior-to-be Tony Holloway, who began his career at Nebraska as a linebacker.

Randall Jobman, Brad Tyrer, Jeff Jamrog and Steve Stanard, who's coming off a redshirt season, are among the others with a chance to establish themselves on the depth chart.

The defensive interior lacks experienced depth, making it another priority during the spring.

Middle guard Danny Noonan and tackle Chris Spachman are the returning starters there, with tackles Neil Smith and Lee Jones having some experience. Smith and Jones both will be juniors. Danny Groskurth, a walkon from Beemer, is the only other defensive tackle who played enough to letter last fall.

Behind Noonan are Phil Rogers, a letterman, and Lawrence Pete, a highly regarded redshirt sophomore. Cleo Rice, who made the Fiesta Bowl travel roster as a freshman, will get a look, too.

Among the new names expected to emerge in the spring is that of John Custard, a redshirted cornerback who walked on from Bellevue East.

"John Custard's going to be a fine player," said Nebraska defensive backs Coach Bob Thornton.

Even though he was a redshirt, Custard didn't work with the scout squad last fall. He attended daily meetings with the regular defensive backs and practiced with the second team. Thornton didn't make the final decision on redshirting Custard until the third game of the season against Oregon.

Custard will have to compete with a host of veterans during the spring in order to earn some playing time next fall. Four of the top six cornerbacks on the Fiesta Bowl depth chart return, including Brian Davis, Cleo Miller, Mike Carl and Gary Schneider.

Charles Fryar, who played well as a freshman with the Cornhusker junior varsity, also has a chance to establish himself at cornerback.

The top three safeties return: Bryan Siebler and Chris Carr, who alternated as starters last fall, and senior-to-be Dan Thayer. And two of the top three monster

backs, including starter Brian Washington, who will be a junior, and Jeff Tomjack. Gene Chealey, Clayton's high school teammate in Orlando, Fla., will get a chance to prove himself in an experienced secondary.

The defensive backfield "ought to be very good," according to Osborne.

The punting job will be open in the spring, with Craig Schnitzler and John Kroeker likely to be the leading candidates.

Dale Klein, the all-conference place-kicker, will try to hold onto his starting job. Craig Schnitzler and freshman Chris Drennan will be among those trying to take it away from him.

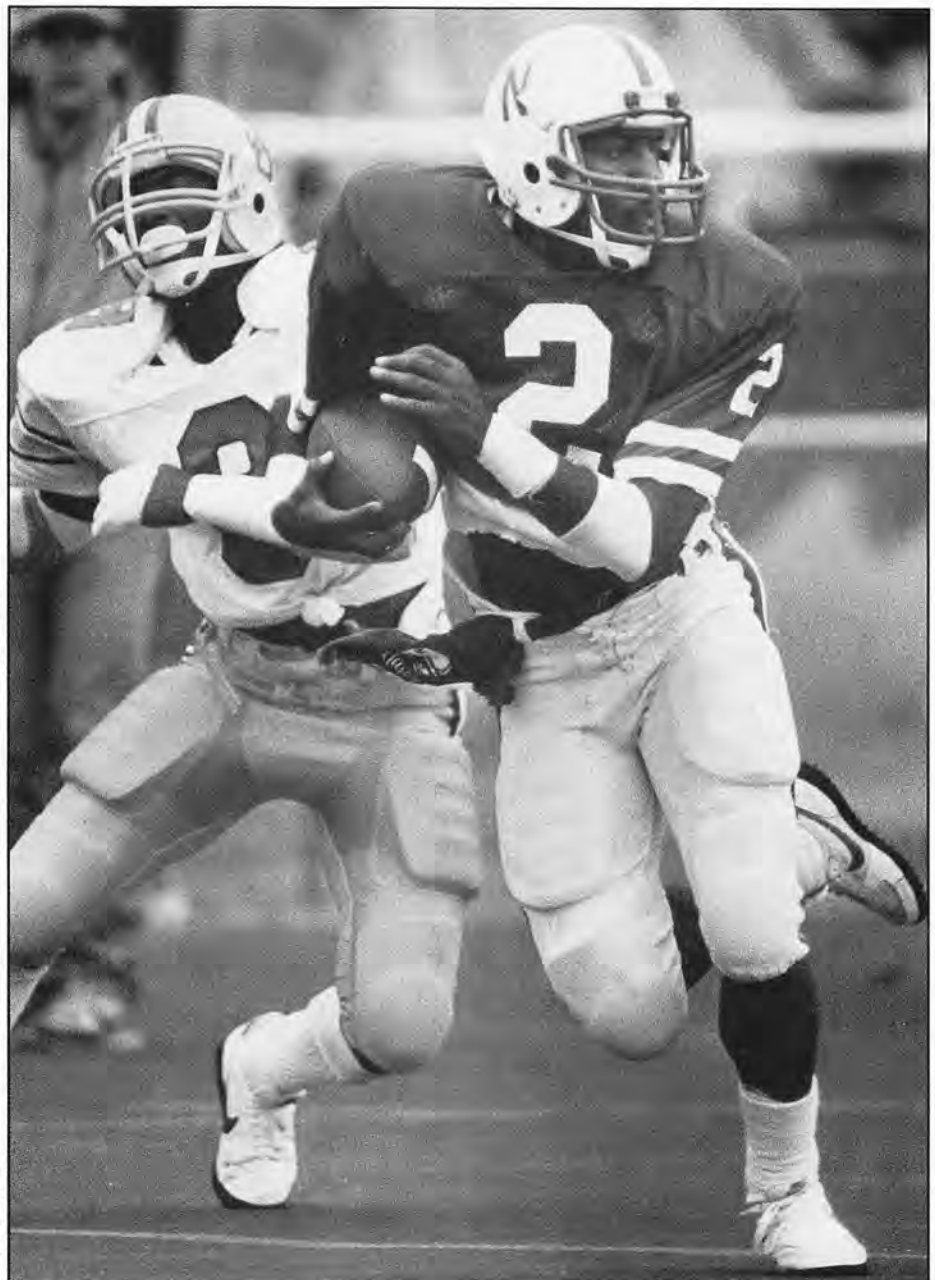
Eleven players who started against Michigan in the Fiesta Bowl will be among those reporting for spring practice.

This spring, Osborne has more than twice as many players with starting experience as he did a year ago and "I feel there's a pretty good amount of talent that was redshirted or on the freshman team this year," he said.

Since the veterans must prove themselves anew against the challenge of those eager young players, it should be an interesting spring. A lot can happen by April 26, the day of Nebraska's annual Red-White intrasquad game at Memorial Stadium.

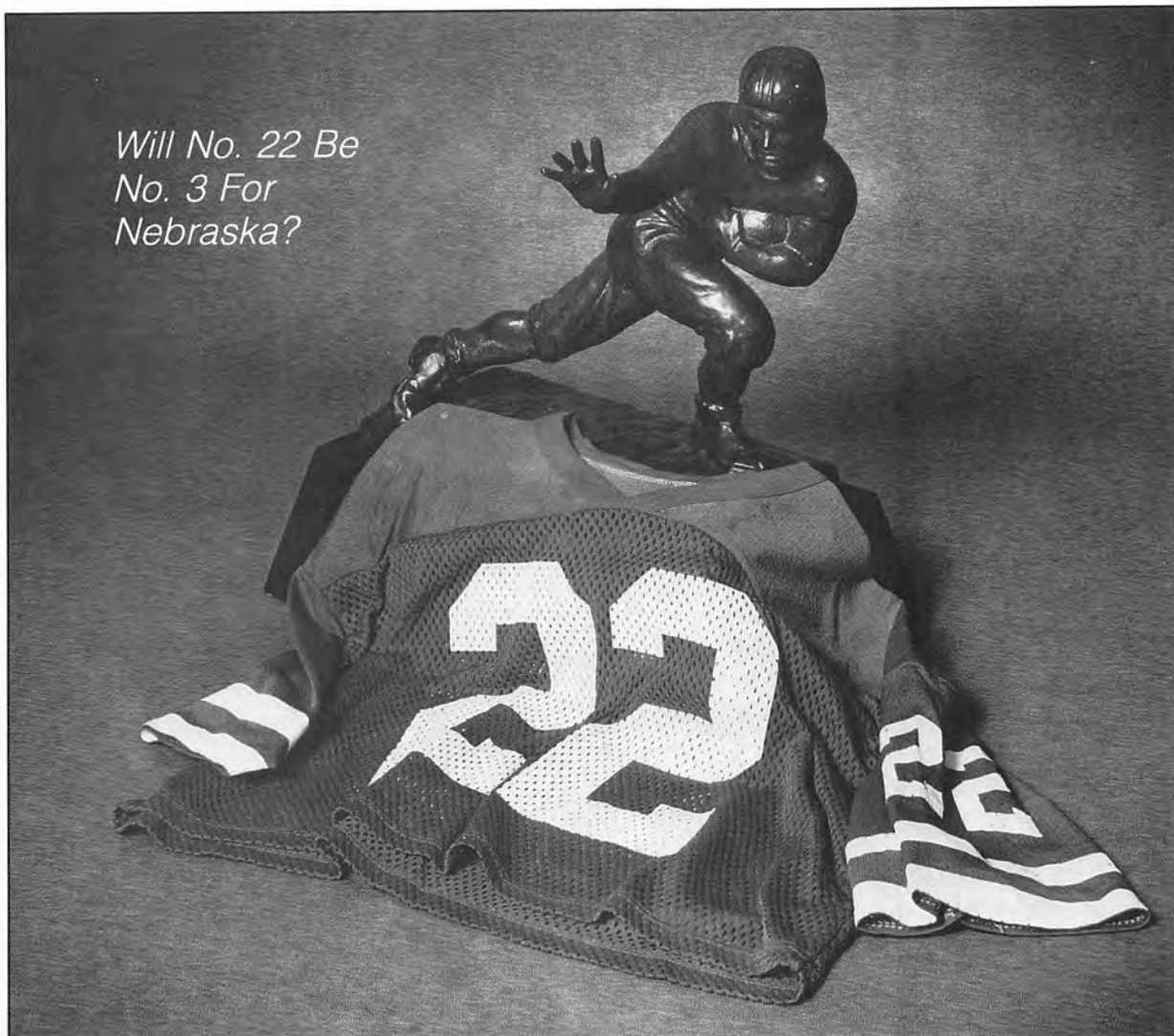
Tyreese Knox, for example, should know what it means to play fullback in the Cornhusker system. He's convinced he can do the job. "I have the aggressiveness to play fullback," Knox said. "My running style is bowling people over."

He'll have a month to prove it. ♦



Von Sheppard (2) is a threat to go the distance any time he touches the ball.

*Will No. 22 Be
No. 3 For
Nebraska?*



Push For The Heisman

Bryant says Nebraska doesn't pick just any "Joe Blow" to promote for the Heisman or any other award. The media will not be fooled into voting for phony candidates.

What price glory?

As the story goes, the sports information director at a Big Ten university spent \$20,000 promoting the quarterback on the school's football team for the Heisman Trophy. When the quarterback didn't win the award, the sports information director was fired.

In the final regular-season game of



Don Bryant, NU Sports Information Director, is gearing up for a busy year in which deserving Husker athletes will be promoted for various awards and honors.

Doug Flutie's storied career at Boston College, the diminutive quarterback completed a miraculous, desperation touchdown pass to beat Miami at the Orange Bowl, in a game viewed by millions on national television.

With the pass, Flutie eliminated any suspense which might have led up to the announcement of his winning the 1984 Heisman Trophy.

Those two stories illustrate a simple principle regarding the Heisman Trophy. "The athlete has to produce on the field," said Don Bryant, Nebraska's veteran sports information director and assistant athletic director. "I don't think a press-agent type of attack will do it if the athlete doesn't produce. He's got to win it in the field."

It also helps to be lucky.

"He has to have some sensational things happen to vault him into the race," Bryant said. Or, in Flutie's case, to put him over the hump.

Bryant speaks with authority on the subject of the Heisman Trophy. He's worked with, or perhaps more accurately for, two Heisman Trophy winners during his 24 years at Nebraska.

Johnny Rodgers was the Cornhuskers' first Heisman winner in 1972, a year in which teammate Rich Glover won the Outland Award.

Mike Rozier added a second Heisman to the Nebraska trophy case in 1983, the same year the Cornhuskers' Dean Steinkuhler

earned another Outland Award, the school's fifth.

Nebraska and Oklahoma have won more Outlands than any other school.

Nebraska twice has had back-to-back Outland Award winners, Larry Jacobson and Glover, and Dave Rimington and Steinkuhler. Rimington won back-to-back Outland Awards in 1981 and 1982, something no one else has done.

Bryant takes little credit for the Heismans, the Outlands, or the Lombardi Trophies, of which Nebraska has won three in the 16 years of the awards' existence. "Sports information plays a part, I suppose. I'm not going to diminish our role," he said.

"We play a public relations role, but at the same time, out of respect for the news media, I don't think they can be persuaded to vote for a phony candidate. If the kid isn't what we say he is, they're not going to vote for him. They're smarter than that."

According to Bryant, who voted for Heisman winners when he was sports editor of the *Lincoln Star*, the trophy represents more than hype. Sure, candidates have to be promoted.

"But we're not going to pick Joe Blow and start doing gimmicks, send out a bunch of posters and cans of corn with his initials on the kernels. (Coach) Tom Osborne doesn't believe in that hokey stuff and neither do I," Bryant said. "We won't just arbitrarily say, 'Okay, now we're

going to create a Heisman Trophy candidate."

"If we feel we have someone of that stature, then we'll promote him."

Bryant feels Nebraska has someone of that stature now — Doug DuBose, an I-back from Uncasville, Conn.

He'll be a senior in 1986.

DuBose has spent two seasons getting his Heisman Trophy portfolio established. Though he started only one game as a Cornhusker sophomore, he led the Big Eight in rushing, gaining 1,040 yards as Jeff Smith's back-up.

Last season, despite being hobbled by a sore knee from the third game on, DuBose rushed for 1,161 yards, giving him 2,205 rushing yards for his career to rank sixth on the school's all-time list. He's only the third Cornhusker to rush for 1,000 yards in back-to-back seasons — Jarvis Redwine and Rozier were the others — and the first to do it as a sophomore and junior.

He ranked ninth in the NCAA in rushing last fall, averaging 116.1 yards per game, and finished second in the conference to Oklahoma State's Thurman

Thomas, who had 99 more carries.

DuBose has a good statistical base and the personality to attract Heisman attention. He collects gold chains and calls himself "Sweetness," after Walter Payton of the Super Bowl champion Chicago Bears, his idol.

He's also readily accessible to the media. Rozier encouraged him to be cooperative. "Mike told me if people want to talk to you, you've got to talk to them," DuBose said.

When he talks, DuBose always says the right things.

"I'm not thinking about winning it (the Heisman Trophy)," he told a reporter from the *Hartford Conn., Courant* last fall. "If I do the things to help my team, they'll fall into place; the honors will come. If I do the things I'm capable of doing, I'll have a chance."

DuBose is first of all a part of the team. "Coach Osborne has always stressed the team concept, that we're all in this thing together," said Bryant. "We're not out to create superstars, but rather a very consistent, family-type team. We follow that basic philosophy in our promotion.

"We don't try to make a circus out of it. If we have players who in our judgment — and I mean Coach Osborne, his staff and I — are that caliber, we'll try to get as much information to the media about their abilities and achievements as we can, within the framework of good taste and professionalism."

Though Bryant and his staff don't try to manufacture candidates for awards like the Heisman and the Outland and recognition as All-Big Eight and All-American performers, they don't ignore those they believe to be deserving of such regional and national attention.

"We try to get out as much information, flood the media through regular channels I suppose, about what an athlete is doing as we can. We did that with Johnny Rodgers and with Mike Rozier," Bryant said.

Rodgers' career illustrates several of the factors which can lead to the winning of the Heisman Trophy.

He had a solid base, playing for back-to-back national championship teams his sophomore and junior seasons, so that even though he didn't finish in the top 10

in the Heisman Trophy balloting either year, he had name recognition before his senior season began.

It's almost impossible for a player to vault into contention for the Heisman Trophy as a senior. He's got to have an outstanding sophomore or junior year on which to build.

Auburn's Bo Jackson, the 1985 Heisman Trophy winner, was already being touted for the award when he was a freshman.

"Underclass exposure and evidence that you're a steady, outstanding performer are

Last season, despite being hobbled by a sore knee from the third game on, DuBose rushed for 1,161 yards, giving him 2,205 yards rushing for his career to rank sixth on the school's all-time list. He's only the third Cornhusker to rush for 1,000 yards in back-to-back seasons — Jarvis Redwine and Rozier were the others — and the first to do it as a sophomore and junior.

necessities if you're going to be in the chase for the Heisman," said Bryant.

Rodgers benefitted from those things.

He also benefitted from exposure on national television, something that's become extremely important, perhaps indispensable. "I don't think you can win the Heisman Trophy without being on television, anymore," Bryant said. "It's virtually impossible. Johnny Rodgers profited a great deal by having great games and some dramatic punt returns on television.

"Mike Rozier had some fine games on television, too."

Rozier, who got a jump on everyone in the Heisman chase by playing in the first Kickoff Classic, also had some dramatic statistics to support his bid for the coveted trophy. For example, he had 11 100-yard rushing performances to tie an NCAA record shared by six others, five of whom were also Heisman Trophy winners. As a senior he rushed for 2,148 yards and 29 touchdowns.

If numbers alone can win the Heisman Trophy, Rozier didn't need anything else. Still, the media have to be made aware of a candidate's exploits.

"People say, 'You didn't do anything for Mike Rozier.' But there's a lot of stuff on him in here," Bryant said, thumbing through a stack of weekly releases from the 1983 football season.

Like Rodgers, Rozier played for outstanding teams. In his final two seasons,

the Cornhuskers won 24 of 26 games and featured the most potent offense in the country.

Nebraska was ranked No. 1 from the season-opener against Penn State in the Kickoff Classic at Giants' Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., until its dramatic upset loss to Miami in the Orange Bowl on New Year's night. All season long, the Cornhuskers were described as the best team in college football history.

The players who surrounded Rozier, Steinkuhler, Turner Gill and Irving Fryar

in particular, received almost as much attention as he did. Gill, a three-time All-Big Eight performer, was fourth in the Heisman balloting. Fryar was an All-American like Rozier and Steinkuhler, who also won both the Outland Award and Lombardi Trophy.

Nebraska's offense, publicized as the "Scoring Explosion," averaged nearly 550 yards and 52 points a game.

The campus was over-run by media representatives from coast to coast. "We were swamped by media requests from August on that season," Bryant said. "It was the toughest year our office has ever gone through. We had newspapers, four, five, six a week coming in because we were No. 1. We got tremendous exposure because we had a great football team."

Any media exposure can be beneficial, but it's particularly important in the major metropolitan areas like New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

According to Bryant, a Heisman Trophy candidate has to be "endorsed" by the major television networks and by national publications like *Sports Illustrated*. During Rodgers' senior year, *Sports Illustrated's* Dan Jenkins did a story on him, thus solidifying his position in the Heisman chase.

"It's important for the team to do well, to have a reputation," Bryant said. "People say, 'Hey, if he's playing there, he's got to be good.' If the team is having a good year and it's in the ratings, the stories will say this guy's leading his team to a national championship or a conference championship or whatever.

"I don't think just publicity alone will do it. But if you have the kind of athlete who generates Heisman Trophy perfor-

mances, the publicity will come and you can augment it. He needs to be rushing for 150 yards or scoring two or three touchdowns a game, things that will get him ahead of the others."

That's one of the obvious reasons linemen don't win the Heisman Trophy. Voters don't have an easy way to evaluate their performances.

The Heisman Trophy was first awarded in 1935, to Jay Berwanger, a halfback at the University of Chicago. Since then, only two linemen have won the trophy, Larry Kelley of Yale in 1936 and Leon Hart of Notre Dame in 1949. Both of them were ends.

Heisman Trophies have been awarded to 32 running backs, including 12 in the last 13 years. The last non-running back prior to Flutie to win the Heisman was Rodgers, a wingback who ran, caught passes and returned kicks.

Flutie was the 13th quarterback to win the Heisman Trophy.

The bronze statue — which weighs 25 pounds and measures 14 inches long and 13½ inches high — depicts a running back, but a quarterback might be more appropriate. John W. Heisman, for whom the trophy was named, was largely responsible for getting the Football Rules Committee to legalize the forward pass. He succeeded in 1906.

Heisman coached football at several schools, among them Auburn, Clemson, Georgia Tech, Pennsylvania, Rice and Washington & Jefferson. He was an offensive innovator. One of his Georgia Tech team's beat Cumberland 220-0.

From 1915 to 1917, Tech won 25 games without a loss under his direction, outscoring their opponents 1,129-61.

That the Heisman Trophy has become an award based on offensive excellence is historically appropriate.

Tradition plays a part in the Heisman Trophy selection process, though with the immediacy of television it's becoming less of a factor.

Notre Dame has won more Heisman Trophies than any other school, six, but the Fighting Irish haven't had a Heisman winner since 1964 — John Huarte, a quarterback.

Ohio State is second on the Heisman list, with five. Archie Griffin won two of those, back-to-back, 1974 and 1975. No other athlete has won the award twice, and only six others have won the Heisman as juniors. A sophomore has never won it.

Because of the tradition factor, and because some schools lack the kind of national reputation Nebraska enjoys, "I'm not saying gimmickry is wrong," said Bryant. "We haven't resorted to that because I don't think it's consistent with our basic philosophy. These kids are here for an education, not to be part of a circus."

"But each school has to address differ-

The Heisman Honor Roll

- 1986 — Doug DuBose ?????
- 1985 — Bo Jackson, Auburn, RB
- 1984 — Doug Flutie, Boston College, QB
- 1983 — Mike Rozier, Nebraska, RB
- 1982 — Herschel Walker, Georgia, RB
- 1981 — Marcus Allen, USC, RB
- 1980 — George Rogers, South Carolina, RB
- 1979 — Charles White, USC, RB
- 1978 — Billy Sims, Oklahoma, RB
- 1977 — Earl Campbell, Texas, RB
- 1976 — Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh, RB
- 1975 — Archie Griffin, Ohio State, RB
- 1974 — Archie Griffin, Ohio State, RB
- 1973 — John Cappelletti, Penn State, RB
- 1972 — Johnny Rodgers, Nebraska, WB
- 1971 — Pat Sullivan, Auburn, QB
- 1970 — Jim Plunkett, Stanford, QB
- 1969 — Steve Owens, Oklahoma, RB
- 1968 — O.J. Simpson, USC, RB
- 1967 — Gary Beban, UCLA, QB
- 1966 — Steve Spurrier, Florida, QB
- 1965 — Mike Garrett, USC, RB
- 1964 — John Huarte, Notre Dame, QB
- 1963 — Roger Staubach, Navy, QB
- 1962 — Terry Baker, Oregon, QB
- 1961 — Ernie Davis, Syracuse, RB
- 1960 — Joe Bellino, Navy, HB
- 1959 — Billy Cannon, LSU, RB
- 1958 — Pete Dawkins, Army, RB
- 1957 — John David Crow, Texas A&M, RB
- 1956 — Paul Hornung, Notre Dame, QB
- 1955 — Howard Cassady, Ohio State, RB
- 1954 — Alan Ameche, Wisconsin, FB
- 1953 — John Lattner, Notre Dame, RB
- 1952 — Billy Vessels, Oklahoma, RB
- 1951 — Dick Kazmaier, Princeton, RB
- 1950 — Vic Janowicz, Ohio State, RB
- 1949 — Leon Hart, Notre Dame, E
- 1948 — Doak Walker, SMU, RB
- 1947 — Johnny Lujack, Notre Dame, QB
- 1946 — Glenn Davis, Army, RB
- 1945 — Doc Blanchard, Army, FB
- 1944 — Les Horvath, Ohio State, QB
- 1943 — Angelo Bertelli, Notre Dame, QB
- 1942 — Frank Sinkwich, Georgia, RB
- 1941 — Bruce Smith, Minnesota, RB
- 1940 — Tom Harmon, Michigan, RB
- 1939 — Nile Kinnick, Iowa, RB
- 1938 — Davey O'Brien, TCU, QB
- 1937 — Clint Frank, Yale, RB
- 1936 — Larry Kelley, Yale, E
- 1935 — Jay Berwanger, Chicago, RB

ent problems in different ways. Maybe somewhere else they feel they need to do those things. Maybe they don't get on television a lot. Maybe they don't go to bowl games or get the media exposure our players get just because they're at Nebraska.

"I'm not critical of any institution that goes for something flamboyant or what I'd call carnival promotions."

When Barry Redden was a senior at the University of Richmond, the school mailed out "Barry Redden for Heisman" T-shirts to voters, of which there are now 1,050. When William Perry, the Chicago Bears' famed "Refrigerator," was a senior, Clemson distributed a life-size poster of its big middle guard.

DuBose won't get that kind of push for the Heisman Trophy when he takes the field in 1986. But Nebraska's weekly highlights are disseminated nationwide, beamed off a satellite.

If DuBose performs as expected, the right people will find out.

The Cornhuskers should challenge for Big Eight and national honors, with an offense that will showcase DuBose's unique talent for carrying the ball.

The two-time All-Big Eight I-back has name recognition.

He'll get ample opportunity to perform on national television, and Nebraska's schedule includes non-conference games with Illinois, Florida State, South Carolina and Oregon, opponents which will provide him with coast-to-coast media exposure.

The machinery is ready for DuBose to press the button and set it in motion. "Just because I say a guy is a Heisman Trophy candidate, that doesn't make him one," Bryant said. "If he goes out and gets only 50 yards a game and the team finishes 6-5, he won't have much chance. But if he runs for 250 yards or scores three touchdowns and his team's ranked in the Top 10, he will."

"He's going to get the support then, particularly if he's got name recognition from his previous years."

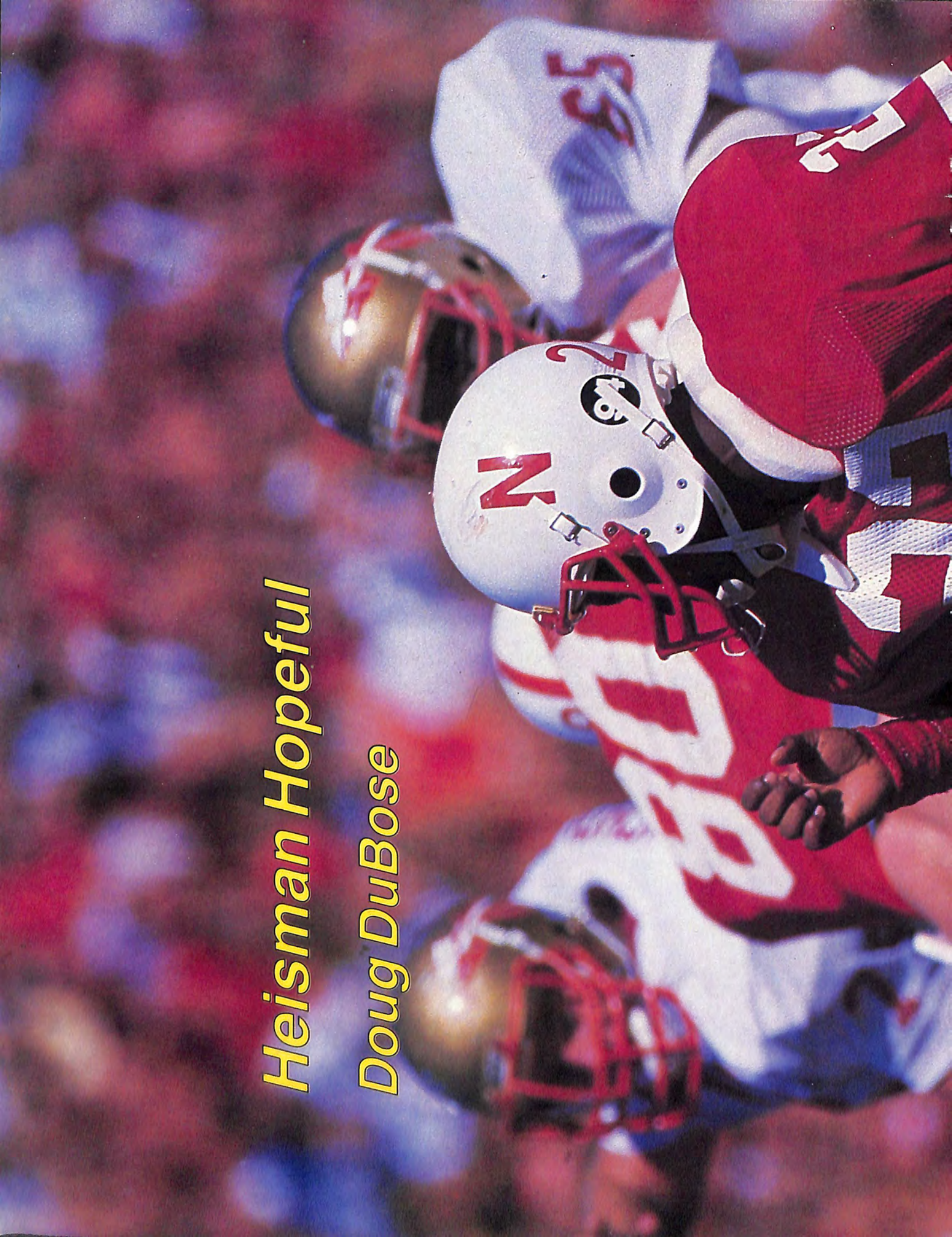
Bryant remembers when he was a sportswriter and voted for the Heisman Trophy. "The big change from the old days is, when we voted, you never saw the guy unless it was in a newsreel or movie. You read about them. You got press reports, wire service stories and still photographs," he said.

"But now, with television, you have the opportunity, if you're a voter, to see the guys you're voting for."

He's hoping the voters can see DuBose do something dramatic, like the pass Flutie threw in the Orange Bowl. In an instant, a single play, all doubts were eliminated. Flutie's pass was something a sports information director couldn't buy, at any price. ♦

Heisman Hopeful

Doug DuBose





NU R E C R U I T S 1986



Brungardt



Caliendo



Crippen

First year recruiting under new NCAA Proposition 48 created nightmares; Osborne prefers to delay judgment on this year's recruiting class.

If Nebraska's class of scholarship football recruits seems a little small this year, it's because of the new eligibility requirements set forth by the NCAA in Proposition 48.

"I think this year is the most competitive I've ever seen in recruiting," Coach Tom Osborne said in announcing the Cornhusker recruits.

"The pool of talent that's recruitable because of academics has been reduced by 35 to 40 percent, so you have the same number of schools with the same number of scholarships zeroing in on about two-thirds of the number of players there were after a year ago."

In order for a football player to be eligible as a freshman under the new rules, he must have had a 2.0 grade-point average in an 11-unit core curriculum in high school as well as standardized test scores of at least 700 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test and 15 on the American College Testing exam. A lower grade-point average would require even higher SAT and ACT scores to be eligible, and vice versa.

That's why Nebraska's list of recruits includes six athletes who didn't sign letters-of-intent on Feb. 12. All six are committed to attending Nebraska and will eventually receive scholarships, said Osborne. In fact, all six were given letters-of-intent. They just didn't sign the letters.

"There are maybe a couple of players there whom we think may not make it academically and three or four whom

we're quite certain will," he said.

Those who do qualify, by receiving acceptable scores on the standardized tests, can still be eligible to play as freshmen in the fall. Those who don't will probably walk on and pay their own expenses the first year. By walking on they can save a season of eligibility.

Athletes who don't qualify can still receive scholarship aid, but they can't play for a year and they lose a season of eligibility.

A scholarship player who had to sit out as a freshman would have three seasons remaining when he became eligible. A walk-on would have four.

"They've been given the option," Osborne said of the six who didn't sign on Feb. 12. "They can sign if they want. They have the letter. But they understand if they sign the letter-of-intent and don't make the grade, they'll lose a year."

"So what we'd like them to do is wait a little bit. In some cases we're simply waiting on a test score. The test has already been taken. In others, the player is taking a test over, or he's shot a core curriculum class and he's taking a correspondence class. There are a lot of variables."

The six Nebraska recruits who hadn't signed by the time *Huskies Illustrated* went to press were Robert Hicks, Leon Otis and Barry Thomas, all from Los Angeles; Shane Lair from Lincoln, Ne.; Billy Williams from Woodbury, N.J., and Darwin Snyder from Winnebago, Ne.



Gdowski



Glaser



Gregory

According to Cornhusker recruiting coordinator Steve Pederson, players like Otis, a quarterback, and Williams, a fullback, would have been heavily recruited in previous seasons, but the uncertainty regarding their eligibility in the fall limited the attention they received.

Schools across the country had to deal with that problem this season.

"The player who would otherwise have gotten a scholarship but was a little bit marginal, academically, wasn't being recruited this year," said Osborne. "The players who don't qualify, the guys who are fairly good players but not great players who don't have the ACT or SAT scores or the core curriculum really got hurt."

Osborne has some concerns about the new requirements.

"I think there are a lot of good athletes who can do college work but are being eliminated, or at least shelved for one year by the SAT and ACT scores," he said.

"I think the core curriculum is certainly a good idea and I think it will pay off in better academic performance; better graduation rates on the part of players down the road. But there are some people who have the ability to do college work who do not test well, who do not have the background to perform well on the ACT or the SAT, and I hate to see those people being hurt or eliminated."

Nebraska had signed letters-of-intent from 15 athletes at press time.

The Cornhuskers signed 14 recruits on Feb. 12 and added another, Jim Wanek from Aurora, Ne., on Feb. 15. There was still a possibility Nebraska would sign one or two more.

Prior to the signing date, Osborne indicated he planned to offer no more than 21 scholarships this season. In addition to saving some for walkons, he was holding back scholarships for Dante Wiley, Willie Griffin and Jason Gamble, players who weren't on scholarship this season.

Wiley is a transfer from Pittsburgh, who had to sit out a year. Gamble was injured, and Griffin was removing some academic deficiencies.

In terms of numbers, "we're somewhere in the ballpark in which we intended to be, and we think the quality is very good," Osborne said. "We maybe would've liked to have had one more defensive lineman, but overall I think the distribution is pretty good."

The initial group of recruits didn't include a running back.

Of the 15 who have signed letters-of-intent, six are from Nebraska.

Besides Wanek, they include: Gerry Gdowski from Fremont, Paul Brungardt from Battle Creek, Kurt Hasley from DeWitt, Patrick Tyrance from Omaha and Karl Hroza from Columbus.

"Sometimes in recruiting the attention tends to focus on the out-of-state players because they're a little bit more of a novelty, and yet we think the in-state players are really a good group," said Osborne.

"A player like Gerry Gdowski, for instance, is probably as good of an all-around athlete as we've recruited any place in the country. Gerry committed to us early and didn't take any trips. We're really pleased to have someone of his quality at Nebraska."

For the second year in a row, the Cornhuskers made a haul in Texas, signing five from the Lone Star state. Three of those five were ranked in the top 20 high school players in the state by the *Dallas Morning News*.

Doug Glaser from Balch Springs and Jake Young from Midland were the second- and third-rated offensive linemen in the state, and Kenny Walker from Crane was a stellar defensive end. Nebraska's other Texas recruits are excellent athletes from Houston: Jeff Miller and Jon Crippen.

According to Osborne, Nebraska had difficulty finding good players who met the NCAA eligibility standards to recruit in the Midwest.

"If you draw a circle with a 500-mile radius, you obviously have a better chance of success there because of distance. We only ended up offering one player in Iowa, three in Minnesota and one in Wisconsin,"

said Osborne.

Nebraska got the one in Iowa, Tom Punt from Sioux Center, and the one in Wisconsin, Chris Caliendo from Brookfield. Punt is a lineman, and Caliendo is a linebacker.

The Cornhuskers also signed only one recruit from Kansas, Rick Wendland, a defensive back from Topeka. "Kansas and Missouri were the slimmest we've ever seen," Osborne said.

"We were after only three players in Colorado, and we couldn't find any players in Wyoming, South Dakota or North Dakota."

Morgan Gregory, a split end from Denver and the son of former Cornhusker captain Ben Gregory, was Nebraska's only recruit from Colorado.

Loveland's Dave McCloughan, another former Cornhusker's son (Kent McCloughan), made a verbal commitment with Nebraska then backed out of it the day before letters-of-intent could be signed. He'll play at Colorado.

McCloughan was one of two players to change his mind after assuring Osborne he was all set to attend Nebraska. The other was Larry Medice, an offensive lineman from De la Salle High School in New Orleans. Medice committed to Nebraska, then took a recruiting trip to Oklahoma and switched allegiance.

Losing players like McCloughan and Medice contributed to what Osborne termed his most frustrating year of recruiting. "I encountered an awful lot of what I would call negative recruiting, where people were trying to dredge up every bit of propaganda they could about different schools," he said. "We were certainly a target."

One thing Osborne encountered has cropped up before — the belief that Nebraska has county scholarships which are given to walkon players.

Schools try to convince prospective recruits that because of the mythical county scholarships, Nebraska's numbers are such that they wouldn't get a fair chance to make the team, that they'd get lost in the shuffle.

"I was asked several times about our county scholarships," said Osborne. "Nobody in Nebraska has heard of them but everybody around the country has. The theory is, every county in Nebraska raises a certain amount of money and provides one scholarship for a walkon player. Nobody will believe that our walkon program is legitimate."

"So somebody, somewhere made up this county scholarship thing. I hear about it a lot and about the number of walkons; how many we have."

According to Osborne, the most common form of negative recruiting has to do with the size of Nebraska's roster and the quality of players on it.

"I think any school that has a good win-

ning tradition faces it. We're not unique," he said. "But recruits are told they'll never play here. Then they (other recruiters) get out the depth charts." The approach isn't illegal, but it borders on the unethical.

"We would prefer that people talked about their own schools. That's supposed to be what our coaches are doing and, hopefully, other people will do the same thing; sell their school instead of talk about someone else."

Osborne was further frustrated by the fact that Nebraska finished second on a lot of recruits' lists.

"Second doesn't help," he said.

Because of the confusion surrounding Proposition 48, Al Papik, the Cornhuskers' newly appointed academic counselor, was heavily involved in the recruiting process.

"It's not just a matter of finding out if a player can play and if he's going to graduate from high school with a 2.0 (grade-point) average," Osborne said. "Now you're throwing in so many variables, you have to examine each transcript individually as to whether a player will qualify."

"That's been a very tedious and time-consuming job for him (Papik)."

Next year Osborne is hoping the NCAA eligibility requirements won't present as many problems. "Everybody around the country is feeling their way along this year. But hopefully, the new rule will work out," he said.

The top-notch players who qualified academically had more schools from which to choose and waited longer to make their decisions this year. Like every other school in the country, Nebraska was forced to wait while recruits took most or all five of the official visits allowed by the NCAA.

Terry Rodgers, a prize running back from Sweetwater High in National City, Calif., for instance, hadn't settled on a school and was still considering Nebraska at press time. The son of former Cornhusker Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers was trying to decide between Nebraska, USC and Texas. He also visited Ohio State and Arizona State.

"I saw more players waiting and being undecided," Osborne said. "It seemed like the last few years we knew about everybody on the signing date, and usually before. I remember a couple of years where we had all the verbal commitments we could handle with two weeks to go (before the signing date)."

"We were telling people no; turning them down."

Last season, Nebraska's recruiting class was ranked first in the nation by Max Emfinger, a self-described recruiting expert from Houston.

Three members of that class were with the top two units on the varsity by season's end — Broderick Thomas, Steve Taylor



Hasley

and LeRoy Etienne.

In 1985, "there were more numbers involved," said Osborne. "The thing that makes it difficult to compare is that we're still not sure who we're going to have. Last year, we had 24 or 25 signatures (on letters-of-intent), and we knew they were from players who were going to be here, academically eligible. Right now, we're not sure."

"I guess it's going to take a month or two for me to know if I'm satisfied with this group of recruits or not."

Proposition 48 has changed the way schools can recruit.

"The recruiting rules are changing things around so certainly these people (recruits) will be better off academically. But I don't know if they can play football as well," Osborne said. "We might have to be less selective in terms of physical talent in the future and go after brighter kids who aren't as good of players."

Recruiting has taken on a whole new aspect under Proposition 48. "It's been a nightmare just trying to know who you can recruit," Osborne said.

Here's a brief rundown of the players who had either signed or committed to Nebraska at press time:

Paul Brungardt, lineman, 6-7, 225, Battle Creek, Ne., High School: Brungardt was the *Sunday Journal-Star* Defensive Player of the Year and earned Super-State recognition from the *Omaha World Herald* as well. He played offensive tackle and defensive end on a 10-1 team. Battle Creek is Class C-1.

His senior year, Brungardt made 71 tackles, including two for safeties, and blocked two punts.

"He's definitely got the size and potential to really mature into an outstanding football player," said his high school coach, Bob Schnitzler. "It was a credit to him that he was able to have the ability to play defensive end at his size."

Bob Schnitzler knows something about evaluating football players. His sons, Robb and Craig, are both Cornhuskers. Former Nebraska defensive end Wade

Praeuner, a three-year letterman, is also a product of Battle Creek.

Brungardt, a cousin of former Cornhusker fullback Tim Brungardt, decided on Nebraska just before Christmas and cancelled a recruiting trip to Colorado. "I gave it a lot of thought and decided I couldn't have a better opportunity," he said.

Brungardt also received recruiting attention as a basketball player.

Chris Caliendo, linebacker, 6-4, 210, Brookfield, Wis., East High School:

Caliendo averaged 17 tackles a game, 10 of them unassisted, as a senior. He was All-Conference, All-District and All-Area as both a linebacker and center. He was All-State as a linebacker.

Caliendo narrowed his choices early, settling on either Nebraska or Minnesota. He has :04.6 speed in the 40-yard dash. "Chris has tremendous quickness and good speed," said Brookfield East Coach Doug Hinkel.

"He's a big hitter, of course, but the thing we utilized the most was his ability to pursue the football."

Caliendo started three years at linebacker for Hinkel. East High, which has an enrollment of 1,200 to 1,400, is located in suburban Milwaukee.

Several factors influenced Caliendo to become a Cornhusker. "The scholastics, the coaching staff, the winning tradition there, and all the super people. I figured Nebraska offers me the best opportunities," he said.

"I was never a real big college football fan, but one name I always heard was Nebraska. I was excited when I heard they were interested in me."

Caliendo's brother, Cary, signed a letter-of-intent with Northern Illinois, coached by former Nebraska assistant and recruiting coordinator Jerry Pettibone.

Jon Crippen, defensive back, 5-11, 180, Houston Westfield High School:

Crippen could be the sleeper of this recruiting class. He was a three-year starter for Coach Ron Anders. He was All-District two years in a row. He played wingback on offense.

Last season he was credited with 58 tackles. Crippen, who has :04.55 speed in the 40; intercepted nine passes during his high school career.

The only other school Crippen visited was Sam Houston State, though Missouri, Texas A&M and SMU showed interest. "Nebraska is very fortunate to be getting a kid like Jon, and he's fortunate to be going to a program like Nebraska's. I'm sure there'll be a mutual benefit," said Anders.

"He's not only a super young man, he's a good student. Jon's used to hard work in the classroom."

Jeff Miller, another Nebraska recruit from Houston, played against Crippen last fall and is convinced the Cornhuskers did

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well to get him. "He's a steal," Miller said.

Gerry Gdowski, quarterback, 6-2, 180, Fremont, Ne., High School: Gdowski was the *Omaha World Herald* Athlete of the Year as a junior, the first ever to earn that recognition. He was a Super-State quarterback his junior year and a Super-State defensive back his senior year.

During this three-year career, he passed for 2,613 yards and 34 touchdowns. He's an excellent student, with a 4.0 grade-point average, and he won four gold medals at the state Class A track and field meet as a junior, in the 400 and 800 and on the 1,600 and 3,200 relay teams.

Gdowski wants to take a shot at quarterback, but if that doesn't work out, he's willing to change. He could be a defensive back or a wide receiver. He has :04.5 speed in the 40.

Gdowski considered Iowa and Iowa State before choosing Nebraska. The other schools didn't have much of a chance. "Being from Nebraska, I've always wanted to play there. Nobody had to give me the hard sell," he said.

Doug Glaser, offensive lineman, 6-7, 290, Mesquite, Texas, High School: Glaser is one of Nebraska's biggest recruits, ever. *The Dallas Morning News* rated him the second best prep lineman in the state. He was All-District and All-Metro.

He's a "prime (college) prospect," according to Rusty Talbot, his high school coach. "He's got good feet, good explosion. He handles himself pretty well and he's got a great desire to play in college."

According to Max Emfinger, a football recruiting analyst in the Houston area, Glaser has "unlimited potential to be great. Most scouts say he will play as a freshman in most programs."

Glaser picked Nebraska over Texas, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Texas Tech, a school his sister attends.

However, Nebraska was a clearcut choice. "The weight facilities and the great tradition of their linemen is the best. I thought about it a lot before my decision," he said. "It really wasn't difficult. I really did like the campus and the people there."

Morgan Gregory, split end, 6-0, 180, Denver Manual High School: The son of former Nebraska co-captain Ben Gregory and a cousin of Cornhusker receivers Coach Gene Huey, Gregory earned all-state recognition as a wide receiver and defensive back. He caught 29 passes for 950 yards and 13 touchdowns as a senior. In his final game, he caught six for 199 yards.

Gregory has been timed at :04.6 in the 40-yard dash. He's also an excellent basketball player, who drew recruiting interest in that sport from New Mexico and Colorado State.

Nebraska's main competition for his signature on a football letter-of-intent came from Kansas and Colorado.



Hroza



Miller



Punt

Ben Gregory didn't pressure his son to choose Nebraska. "I promised myself at the beginning I was going to stay out of it," he said. "I always wanted him to have an opportunity to compete at the highest level, so I just wanted him to select a school where he could play with the best. That's why you play."

"I didn't twist his arm."

"I just told him to take his best shot, so he wouldn't have to wonder 20 years from now, 'What if?'"

Morgan isn't worried about being compared to his father, who rushed for 1,062 yards during his Nebraska career. "I think it makes it more difficult, but there probably won't be quite as much pressure because I don't play the same position my dad did," he said.

Kurt Hasley, defensive line, 6-3, 240, DeWitt, Ne., Tri County High School:

Hasley was credited with 300 tackles during his three-year high school career. As a junior he was the *Sunday Journal-Star* Defensive Player of the Year. His senior year he earned all-class, All-State recognition from both the *Sunday Journal-Star* and *Omaha World Herald*. He's also a wrestler.

Hasley considered Kansas, New Mexico, Oregon and Iowa State, but Nebraska was easily his No. 1 choice. "It's been a dream of mine just to go there. It's a feather in my cap to get a scholarship," said Hasley.

Dan Tesar, his coach at Tri County, is convinced Hasley will succeed at the major college level. "Whenever an athlete from a small school is awarded an athletic scholarship, there are people across the state who have some doubts about the kid's ability," said Tesar. "But I really feel Kurt has the desire and the potential to play."

Karl Hroza, defensive back, 5-11, 175, Columbus, Ne., Scotus High School:

Hroza a two-time all-stater on Scotus teams that were 23-1. He holds the school record for career interceptions with 16. As a senior, he made 55 tackles, 40 of them unassisted, had two interceptions, two fumble recoveries and three quarterback sacks.

On offense he played quarterback, rush-

ing for 527 yards and passing for 544 yards and seven touchdowns.

Hroza also was his team's placekicker and converted 20 of 28 extra-point attempts. He returned 26 punts for 465 yards and three touchdowns.

Hroza was the Class B triple jump champion as a junior, and he starts at guard on the basketball team. Among the other schools which showed an interest in him were Notre Dame, Oklahoma and Colorado State.

Jeff Miller, quarterback, 6-3, 210, Houston Cy-Fair High School:

As a senior, Miller led Cy-Fair to a 13-1-1 record and the semifinals of the Class AAAAA playoffs. He directed an option attack, rushing for 400 yards and five touchdowns and completing 90 of 171 passes for 1,600 yards and 15 touchdowns. He earned first-team All-Greater Houston area recognition.

Miller is an excellent athlete and was the national age-group champion in the decathlon in 1983. He was the district prep shot put champion last spring, and he's set his sights on a 60-foot toss.

"I think I have a legitimate chance. I've improved from 50 feet as a sophomore to 55 as a junior," said Miller, who can bench press 310 pounds.

According to Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne, Miller is unique in that he could play defensive end or fullback as well as quarterback, the position at which he'll begin his Nebraska career.

Miller visited Texas A&M before settling on the Cornhuskers.

Warren Trahan, his high school coach, patterned Cy-Fair's offense after Nebraska's attack, another factor in Miller's favor. "We run the whole Nebraska package on offense," Trahan said. "Every time they play (on television) we videotape the ballgame. You can't really get much off TV, but we'll pick up a little bit."

Miller, who's been timed in :04.7 in the 40-yard dash, said he was impressed by Osborne's honesty during his recruitment. "He came right out and told me exactly what was what."

Tom Punt, defensive line, 6-8, 245,



Tyrance



Wendland



Young

Sioux Center, Iowa, High School:

Punt played both offensive and defensive tackle for three years at Sioux Center High. As a senior, he was credited with 113 tackles, 60 of which were unassisted, and he had seven quarterback sacks. He finished with 207 tackles during his career.

He was first-team All-Northwest Iowa and second-team All-State, playing in Iowa's second largest class.

Nebraska expects Punt to mature physically. He has the frame.

According to Jim Johnson, his high school coach, "He doesn't have the real muscle definition yet that is a sign of maturity."

Among the schools Punt considered before choosing Nebraska were Iowa, Minnesota and Iowa State.

Patrick Tyrance, tight end, 6-1, 220, Millard North High School:

Like Jon Crippen, Tyrance figures to be a sleeper in this recruiting class. He was a "well-kept secret to everybody but us," said his coach, Fred Petito. "He's an excellent player. He blocks a ton and plays hard all the time, but it's hard for a tight end to make all-state if he doesn't catch passes, and we ran the ball."

His senior year, Tyrance caught eight passes for 140 yards and one touchdown.

Tyrance also played defense. He made 117 tackles, 38 unassisted, forced two fumbles, recovered two fumbles and broke up two passes.

He is a 3.0 student who plans to major in chemistry. He has :04.73 speed in the 40-yard dash, and he can bench press over 300 pounds. As a result, Nebraska's strength complex was one of the factors which weighed heavily in his decision to become a Cornhusker.

Nebraska came in on him late. Iowa State had been recruiting him, and "that's why it was pretty tough. It really was a hard decision," he said.

Kenny Walker, defensive end, 6-4, 215, Crane, Texas, High School:

Walker is probably the most remarkable story in this year's recruiting class. He's been deaf since the age of two. *The Dallas Morning News* rated him as one of the top

20 high school players in the state. He's an outstanding athlete.

Walker is a three-year starter in football and basketball. He runs the 40 in 4.5 seconds and has a 42-inch vertical jump. In track and field, he long jumps and runs the 200 meters. According to his high school football Coach Ricky White, his best time in the 200 meters is :22.1, "which isn't bad because he doesn't hear the (starting) gun. I don't know how fast he could run it," White said.

As a senior, Walker averaged 12 tackles per game and had four quarterback sacks. On offense he played split end, catching eight passes for 130 yards and four touchdowns. He also rushed 19 times for 99 yards and completed a pass for 54 yards.

Nebraska's program for educating the hearing handicapped was a determining factor in Walker's decision to become a Cornhusker. "It's the best, by far," White said. "When you've done as much research on the subject as we have, you can say that with justification."

Walker visited Texas Tech and cancelled recruiting trips to Oklahoma, Baylor and Texas.

Jim Wanek, offensive line, 6-2, 235, Aurora, Ne., High School:

Wanek signed a letter-of-intent with Nebraska four days late. He runs :04.9 in the 40-yard dash and bench presses 320 pounds.

The Cornhuskers had been recruiting Wanek as a walkon, but when a scholarship became available, they offered it to him. He didn't hesitate. A scholarship from Nebraska "is what I've always dreamed about," he said. "We filled out sheets before every football season, and we'd write our goals. Mine was always to get a scholarship to Nebraska."

Wanek also received belated recruiting attention from Baylor and Louisiana State. "I'm not sure what the deal was. All of a sudden, they just started calling," he said.

He could play middle guard but he'll likely start out at center.

According to his coach at Aurora, Jack Guggenmos, Wanek might have been recruited more heavily all along, but his height was a factor. "He's 6-2," Guggen-

mos said. "And I think they wished he was 6-4 or 6-5."

Rick Wendland, defensive back, 6-1, 185, Washburn Rural High School:

Wendland played strong safety and wide receiver for a 10-2 state championship team. Washburn Rural plays in the state's second largest classification.

As a receiver, Wendland caught 17 passes for 294 yards and nine touchdowns. He was a key part of Washburn Rural's defense, which limited opponents to 100.8 yards per game on the ground and 65.6 yards per game through the air.

Bruce Thezan, Washburn Rural's vice principal, gave Nebraska a recruiting assist in landing Wendland. Thezan grew up with Husker defensive coordinator Charlie McBride, who recruited Wendland.

"He (Thezan) told me Nebraska has the finest program around, and if I had a chance to go there, not to pass it up," said Wendland, who also considered staying in-state and enrolling at Kansas or Kansas State.

Jake Young, offensive line, 6-5, 240, Midland, Texas, Robert E. Lee High School:

Young was ranked among the top 100 recruits in the country by recruiting analyst Max Emfinger. He earned all-state recognition at the high school which produced former Cornhusker tight end Junior Miller.

"I've always liked Nebraska," said Young, who gained national attention when he sank a half-court shot to win \$1,500 during halftime of a Texas Tech basketball game. He was on a recruiting trip at the time, and the NCAA ruled he couldn't keep the money.

"You can't really miss anything you never had. That's the way I've tried to look at it," Young said.

He could play either offensive guard or center at Nebraska. Young picked the Cornhuskers over Texas and TCU.

Deciding to leave the state wasn't easy. "Everybody has an opinion about where you should go. But I've always liked Nebraska," he said.

Young is still growing. He hopes to weigh at least 250 pounds by the fall. He weighed 175 following the football season of his junior year and 180 at the start of last summer. He's been timed in :04.9 in the 40-yard dash.

Committed but unsigned:

Robert Hicks, defensive back, 5-11, 165, Los Angeles Fremont High School.

Shane Lair, defensive end, 6-1, 210, Lincoln, Ne., High School.

Leon Otis, quarterback-defensive back, 6-1, 185, Los Angeles Locke High School.

Darwin Snyder, wingback-defensive back, 5-8, 170, Winnebago, Ne., High School.

Barry Thomas, defensive back, 6-2, 175, Los Angeles Monroe High School.

Billy Williams, fullback, 6-2, 205, Deptford Township, N.J., High School. ♦



Bowl Review

Arizona Trip Was Really No Fiesta

Third quarter nightmare spoiled bid to end season on a high note.

It was a fitting conclusion, in a depressing sort of way, to the Nebraska football team's Sunkist Fiesta Bowl experience. One of the engines on the Trans-Air L-1011 charter carrying the Cornhuskers home from Phoenix had to be shut down shortly after takeoff.

In retrospect, the experience may have been more exciting than dangerous for the 288 players, coaches and athletic staff members on board.

After the jet landed safely at Lincoln's Municipal Airport, with fire trucks ready just in case something went wrong, an airport spokesman said the malfunction was no big deal.

That was open for debate.

Mike Arthur, an assistant strength and conditioning coach, said he thought one of the back wings had fallen off.

Brian Blankenship, a Cornhusker offensive guard, said it sounded like a wrench

had been thrown into the engine.

"You could smell smoke," he said.

By most standards, that's a big deal.

The Fiesta Bowl game offered a similarly harrowing experience for Nebraska, except that the Cornhuskers couldn't overcome the third-quarter malfunction which led to a 27-23 loss to Michigan on New Year's Day.

Allowing for the fact that an aerial metaphor might be inappropriate for Ne-

(Opposite page), Steve Taylor (11) makes the pitch at the last second as he is hit by a Michigan defender. (Right), NU's Kevin Parson's (35) puts the muscle on a Michigan runner.

braska's ground-oriented attack, it seemed the Cornhuskers' engine wasn't shut down; it fell off, early in the third quarter at Arizona State's Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz.

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne, who takes justifiable pride in his team's execution, watched as the Cornhuskers contributed to their own demise.

They self-destructed, pure and simple.

"I can't ever remember us playing that poorly in a quarter," said veteran assistant Clete Fischer, whose long and respected coaching career ended with that game.

By the time Osborne and his staff made the necessary repairs, if there were repairs to be made, Michigan had scored 24 points, a Fiesta Bowl record.

For the season, the Big Ten runnerup outscored its opponents in the third quarter a remarkable 103-6.

The Wolverines had managed only three points in the first half, settling for Pat Moons' 42-yard field goal late in the first quarter, after a 10-play, 59-yard drive stalled at the Nebraska 25.

The Cornhuskers responded with a pair of second-quarter touchdowns by I-back Doug DuBose, the first on a five-yard pass from starting quarterback McCathorn Clayton, the second on a three-yard run. Both followed long drives.

With successful extra-point kicks by Dale Klein, Nebraska led 14-3, only the second time all season that Michigan trailed at halftime. Notre Dame led the Wolverines 9-3 only to lose 20-12.

In any case, the Cornhuskers took that advantage and the confidence which went with it into the fatal third quarter.

As far as the Fiesta Bowl audience of 72,454 — the largest crowd to witness a sporting event in Arizona history — was concerned, there were certainly no signs that something might be amiss.

"I thought our team would come out, play real good football and take off where they had at the end of the second quarter," Osborne said.

The Cornhuskers didn't take off, though, at least not right away.

Their demise was swift.

On the third play from scrimmage in the second half, DuBose collided with fullback Tom Rathman and fumbled the ball. Michigan linebacker Jeff Akers recovered at the Cornhusker 21-yard line. Four plays later, Gerald White dived into the end zone.

White got the touchdown, but a 5-7,



175-pound sophomore from Ayer, Mass., set it up with a 19-yard run on first down. The diminutive tailback was Jamie Morris, who was a big source of frustration for the Nebraska Black Shirts all afternoon.

Michigan finished with 171 net rushing yards, 156 of which belonged to Morris. It was his third 100-yard rushing performance of the season and just 23 yards short of his career best.

Morris became only the sixth ball carrier in Fiesta Bowl history to rush for 100 or more yards. The others were Tony Dorsett of Pittsburgh, Marcus Dupree of Ok-

lahoma, Woody Green of Arizona State, Tommy Reamon of Missouri and James Owens of UCLA.

Prior to the game, his brother, Joe Morris, who plays for the National Football League New York Giants, told him to run like a man possessed.

Jamie Morris did. "It's in the genes, I guess," said the Fiesta Bowl's Most Valuable Offensive Player.

The Wolverines' game plan probably had as much to do with Morris' success as his genes. "We felt we could sweep on them and get to the outside," he said.



Steve Taylor (11) is stopped short of the goalline, but NU scored on the next play.

That's how Michigan got its go-ahead touchdown a little over two minutes later. Nebraska fumbled on consecutive downs, losing the second at its own 38-yard line to give the Wolverines excellent field position again.

After an incomplete pass thrown by split end Paul Jokisch on a reverse, Morris swept to the right for 18 yards. Before the Cornhuskers could regroup, White swept right again, gaining 19 yards to the Nebraska one-yard line.

One play later, quarterback Jim Harbaugh carried over left tackle for the touchdown. Moons' extra-point kick gave Michigan a 17-14 lead.

The Cornhuskers' problems continued.

They picked up one first down before being forced to punt from their own 35-yard line, fourth-and-15.

Dan Wingard averaged 40.3 yards per punt on three punts in the game, so the odds were, he would've gotten Nebraska out of trouble if he had gotten off the punt. But Dave Arnold, a freshman defensive back, broke through, blocked the punt and recovered the ball at the Cornhusker six-yard line. "We haven't had a blocked punt, I don't know, in several years," said Osborne.

Michigan had blocked three during the regular season, two of them by Arnold.

This time, Nebraska's defense dug in, and on fourth down, Michigan was still

two yards from the end zone. Coach Bo Schembechler took a timeout to consider his options, then had Moons kick a 19-yard field goal for a 20-14 lead.

But the Cornhuskers were still within striking distance. A touchdown and an extra-point would have put them ahead.

Michigan's final score of the third quarter followed a strategic mistake by Osborne. On a third-and-six from the Nebraska 22-yard line, Harbaugh threw an incomplete pass, ostensibly setting up another field goal situation.

But the Wolverines were called for holding, and Osborne accepted the penalty. That gave Michigan third-down replay, from the NU 32.

Harbaugh threw another incomplete pass, but this time, Cornhusker cornerback Dennis Watkins was called for interference, giving the Wolverines a new start at the 17-yard line.

A sweep by Morris, to his left for 14 yards, got Michigan closer. After a no-gain, a pass interference on defensive end Tony Holloway, and another no gain, Harbaugh followed his right tackle into the end zone.

Harbaugh passed to Jokisch for a two-point conversion which was nullified by a holding penalty, and the Wolverines had to settle for a long extra-point kick from Moons to go ahead 27-14.

Appropriately, Nebraska's final offensive play of the quarter, a run by Clayton, ended in a fumble which was recovered by Ivan Hicks, Michigan's strong safety.

The third quarter was a nightmare.

Time of possession favored Michigan, 9:01 to 5:59. The Wolverines gained 114 yards on 18 carries, an average of 6.3 yards per carry, and limited Nebraska 37 rushing yards on 12 attempts.

The Cornhuskers lost three of four fumbles, and they were penalized for pass interference twice.

"It just seemed like we lost a little bit of our concentration. Why that happened, I don't know," Osborne said. "We wanted to play the game in such a way that we were close going into the fourth quarter because we thought our physical strength, maybe our conditioning, would help us."

By the fourth quarter, the only thing that could have helped Nebraska was a miracle. And it almost got one from quarterback Steve Taylor.

The freshman from Spring Valley, Calif., heralded as the next Turner Gill, made his first appearance in the Fiesta Bowl with 13:10 remaining.

Nebraska had gained possession of the

Freshman quarterback Steve Taylor (11) pitches off to Von Sheppard during a fourth-quarter rally that was nearly, but not quite enough.

ball at its own three-yard line, following a Michigan punt. Osborne didn't pull Clayton until after he had completed a nine-yard pass to tight end Todd Frain to pick up a first down and give Taylor a little bit of room to operate.

"We thought McCathorn played very well, particularly in the first half," Osborne said later.

Taylor's first play was a handoff to DuBose, who carried over left guard for a 12-yard gain and Nebraska's 13th first down of the afternoon.

Taylor kept on the next play, carrying around his left end for 25 yards. He also had a nine-yard run on the drive, which reached the Michigan 14-yard line before dying. The Cornhuskers lined up second-and-five at the 14, but the Wolverine defense dug in.

Mike Hammerstein, an All-American tackle, stopped Taylor for no gain. The series ended with two incomplete passes sandwiched around a delay of game penalty which moved the ball back five yards to the Michigan 19.

Taylor's fourth-down pass, intended for split end Rod Smith, was deflected by Doug Mallory — 8:08 remained.

The Wolverines went three downs and punt, giving Nebraska the ball back at its own 23-yard line with 6:29 left.

Taylor needed 12 plays, an offsides penalty on Michigan and four minutes to drive the Cornhuskers 77 yards for a touchdown he scored on a sneak. Taylor made a pair of 12-yard runs on the drive, which included DuBose's 31-yard sweep on a third-and-three at the NU 44.

Klein's third extra-point kick pulled Nebraska to within a touchdown, 27-21, with 2:29 remaining in the game.

A fired-up Cornhusker defense, aided by two penalties, left Michigan with a fourth-and-16 at its own four-yard line. Only 1:29 remained.

Schembechler, confident that his defense could hold, called for punter Monte Robbins to run out-of-bounds for an intentional safety, after which he was given a free kick.

Nebraska still hadn't given up.

Wingback Von Sheppard, who lined up in the Cornhuskers' power-I backfield and carried seven times in the game, returned the kick 30 yards, giving Nebraska a first-and-10 at its 46 with 1:14 remaining.

Taylor gained five yards to put the



Cornhuskers in Michigan territory on first down, then threw an incomplete pass, intended for Sheppard, on second.

On third down, Taylor threw into the end zone. The pass was intercepted by Garland Rivers, and with 28 seconds left, the game was over.

Taylor's final pass, intended for Smith, caught Rivers by surprise.

Even so, "I had the receiver covered," Rivers said. "He (Taylor) just threw it deep. I didn't think he would go deep because they still had some time left." Not much, though.

"I don't think we quit trying," said Osborne, who watched as his team rolled up 370 yards, including 304 on the ground, the most by any team in a bowl game this season. "The number of yards we had wasn't too bad against a great Michigan defense."

The Wolverines finished the regular season ranked first in the nation in scoring defense (6.8 ppg), second in total defense

(253.6) and sixth in rushing defense (103.2). Nebraska exceeded all three averages.

DuBose finished with 99 rushing yards, one short of becoming only the second player to gain 100 yards against Michigan's defense.

Except for the efforts of Morris, the Wolverines' offense was stifled by Nebraska's Black Shirts. Harbaugh, the NCAA leader in passing efficiency, was limited to six completions in 15 attempts for 63 yards.

Kevin Parsons, a junior from Springfield, Mo., who moved into the starting lineup when Marc Munford was lost for the season with a knee injury, led the Cornhusker defense in tackles. He finished with six unassisted and seven assists for 13.

Parsons was at a loss to explain Nebraska's third-quarter problems.

"I don't think we were confused or anything like that," he said. "As a team we



Doug Dubose, (22) on his way to one of his two, second-quarter touchdowns.

were definitely feeling like we had an advantage and that things were going our way. What we had to do was go out and keep doing the things we were doing well. Apparently, we didn't."

Junior middle guard Danny Noonan made nine tackles despite being bothered by a sore knee most of the game.

Charlie McBride, Nebraska's defensive coordinator, wasn't satisfied with his team's play. "I'm disappointed for our seniors," McBride said. "They gave us a good effort, all of them."

But the effort wasn't good enough to win. Despite the field position the third-quarter turnovers gave Michigan, "that's no excuse. I don't care if you put the ball on the one-yard line, you don't let 'em in the end zone," said McBride. "We broke down a couple of times defensively."

"The kids tried hard. I'm not saying that. But we weren't playing real intense football at the start of the second half, and that cost us. Turnovers, defensively, don't

mean a thing. That's part of the business.

"You've got to stop 'em, no matter what happens on offense. That's your end of the bargain. You have to hold up your end, and we didn't do that."

Schembechler praised the Cornhuskers. "Nebraska is really some kind of football team. I wouldn't want to play them every week," he said. "They're not your average team, not at all."

"It's as strong a team as we played all year. I'll put it this way, I would rather play any of our other 11 opponents again than Nebraska. They moved better than anyone else this year against us."

The victory gave Michigan a 10-1-1 record, the loss (12-10) coming to Iowa on a game-ending field goal and the tie to Illinois (3-3). "This team has given me the most satisfaction I've ever had," said Schembechler, who now has a 3-10 bowl record.

The Wolverines were ranked second in the final polls of both major wire services.

Nebraska dropped to 10th in the United Press International poll and 11th in the Associated rankings.

"Overall, we played a lot of good football. I was really disappointed we couldn't win this last game because I think that would have made it a very, very good year," Osborne said.

"We didn't get beat by anybody that was shabby. I wish we could have beaten one of those three teams. I think we were probably a little better football team than Florida State and probably a little better than Michigan."

But the best team doesn't always win. Nebraska learned that the first time it played in the Fiesta Bowl, losing to Arizona State 17-14 in 1975.

The Cornhuskers won't soon forget the loss to Michigan, just as they won't forget the flight home.

"It sounded like a couple of bangs, then buzzers started going off and the stewards went to the back of the plane. We knew something was wrong," said Noonan. "We were flying pretty low, and going pretty slow."

Given the fact that the jet landed safely, it was an appropriate conclusion to the Fiesta Bowl experience.

Husker Playing Time (in minutes)

Offense: Keith Jones 5 plus, McCathorn Clayton 22, Steve Taylor 12, Clele Blakeman 1/2, Paul Miles 2, Doug DuBose 30 plus, Roger Lindstrom 25, Dan Casterline 2 plus, Tom Rathman 25, Jon Kelley 1, Todd Millikan 2 plus, Ken Kaelin 10 plus, Mark Cooper 1 plus, Keven Lightner 7 plus, John McCormick 28 plus, Brad Johnson 2, Tim Roth 27 plus, Bill Lewis 31, Tom Welter 24 plus, Brian Blankenship 31 plus, Rob Maggard 15, Todd Carpenter 1 plus, Stan Parker 15, Mike Hoefler 3 plus, Todd Frain 30 plus, Robb Schnitzler 31 plus, Tom Banderas 26 plus, Rod Smith 26.

Defense: Gary Schneider 1, Guy Rozier 2 plus, Brian Washington 4, Cleo Miller 3 plus, Bryan Siebler 10 plus, Dennis Watkins 19, Brian Davis 28 plus, Todd Proffitt 10 plus, Kevin Parsons 23 plus, Doug Welniak 18, Steve Forch 2 plus, Mike Carl 8 plus, Chris Carr 8, LeRoy Etienne 1/4, Chris Spachman 21, Broderick Thomas 3 plus, Brad Tyrer 3 plus, Gregg Reeves 18, Scott Tucker 27 plus, Tony Holloway 17, Neil Smith 5, Danny Noonan 18, Jim Skow 25, Lee Jones 7.

Kickers: Dale Klein 1 plus, Dan Wingard 1.

Fiesta Bowl Numbers

SCORING SUMMARY

First Quarter

M—Moons 42 field goal 3:41 (drive: 10 plays, 59 yards, 4:22)

Second Quarter

N—DuBose 5 pass from Clayton (Klein kick) 14:22 (drive: 10 plays, 74 yards, 4:19)

N—DuBose 3 run (Klein kick) 3:51 (drive: 9 plays, 63 yards, 3:55)

Third Quarter

M—White 1 run (Moons kick) 12:57 (drive: 4 plays, 21 yards, 1:13)

M—Harbaugh 1 run (Moons kick) 10:43 (drive: 5 plays, 38 yards, 1:27)

M—Moons 19 field goal 6:42 (drive: 4 plays, 4 yards, 1:36)

M—Harbaugh 2 run (Moons kick) 1:53 (drive: 7 plays, 52 yards, 3:26)

Fourth Quarter

N—Taylor 1 run (Klein kick) 2:29 (drive: 12 plays, 77 yards, 4:00)

N—Michigan safety, Robbins steps out of end zone 1:22.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Michigan	3	0	24	0 — 27
Nebraska	0	14	0	9 — 23

Team Stats

	NU	MU
First downs	20	16
First downs rushing	16	9
First downs passing	3	5
First downs penalty	1	2
Rushing attempts	60	49
Yards gained rushing	325	210
Yards lost rushing	25	39
Net yards rushing	304	171
Net yards passing	66	63
Passes attempted	15	16
Passes completed	6	6
Passes had intercepted	1	0
Total offensive plays	75	65
Total net yards	370	234
Average gain per play	4.9	3.6
Return yards	20	3
Fumbles-lost	6-3	2-0
Penalties-yards	7-46	8-43
Interceptions-yards	0-0	1-0
Punts-yards	3-121	5-219
Average per punt	40.3	43.8
Punt returns-yards	1-20	1-3
Kickoff returns-yards	7-144	2-29
Possession time	32:01	27:59
Third down conversions	7-17	4-14
Sacks-by-yards	1-4	3-24

Individual Stats

RUSHING

Nebraska — DuBose 17-99, Taylor 10-76, Clayton 14-68, Rathman 9-47, Sheppard 7-13, Kaelin 1-1, Jones 2-0.

Michigan — Morris 22-156, White 13-38, Perryman 2-1, Robbins 1-(-4), Harbaugh 11-(-20).

PASSING

Nebraska — Clayton 4-6-0, 51 yds., 1TD; Taylor 2-9-1, 15 yds.

Michigan — Harbaugh 6-15-0, 63 yds., Jokisch 0-1.

RECEIVING

Nebraska — Frain 3-46, Smith 1-8, Sheppard 1-7, DuBose 1-5.

Michigan — Kattus 3-38, Morris 2-10, Jokisch 1-15.

PUNTING

Nebraska — Wingard 3-40.3.

Michigan — Robbins 5-43.8.

TACKLES

Nebraska — Parsons 13 (6-7), Noonan 9 (3-6), Knox 6 (4-2), Skow 5 (3-2), Tucker 5 (3-2), Watkins 5 (1-4), Davis 4 (3-1), Siebler 4 (3-1), Carr 3 (1-2), Smith 2 (1-1), Washington 2 (1-1), Holloway 2 (2-0), Forch 1 (0-1), Spachman 1 (1-0), Schneider 1 (1-0), Miles 1 (0-1).

Michigan — M. Mallory 15 (6-9), Messner 9 (4-5), Gant 9 (6-3), D. Mallory 8 (6-2), Moeller 6 (3-3), Rivers 6 (2-4), Hammerstein 4 (3-1), Cochran 4 (3-1), Akers 3 (2-1), Phibert 3 (3-0), Slainelli 3 (1-2), Reinhold 2 (2-0), Randell 2 (1-1), McIntyre 1 (1-0), Bostic 1 (1-0), White, 1 (1-0) Hicks 1 (0-1), To. Schulte 1 (0-1), Ti. Schulte 1 (0-1), Sutkiewicz 1 (1-0), Heren 1 (1-0).

TACKLES FOR LOSS

Nebraska — Holloway 1-23, Skow 1-3, Parsons 1-1, Knox 1-1, Smith 1-1, Noonan 1-1, Carr 1-1.

Michigan — Messner 1-6, Akers 1-4, Hammerstein 1-2, Slainelli 1-1.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES

Nebraska — none.

Michigan — Messner, Hicks, Akers, Arnold.

PASS INTERCEPTIONS

Nebraska — none.

Michigan — Rivers (no return).

PASSES BROKEN UP

Nebraska — Davis 2, Watkins 1.

Michigan — Rivers 2, M. Mallory 2, D. Mallory

QUARTERBACK SACKS

Nebraska — Holloway 1-23.

Michigan — Akers 1-4.

No Contest For 5-0 '85 Jayvees

By Mike Babcock

Charles Fryar is often mistaken for Irving Fryar's brother. On occasion, he's even mistaken for Irving.

"Sometimes, when I'm downtown, I'll hear somebody say, 'Irving, Irving.' And I have to tell them, 'I'm not Irving; I'm Charles,'" he said.

Charles Fryar is determined to make a name for himself as a Nebraska football player. He doesn't mind being confused with his more famous cousin, from time to time, but he doesn't want people to make more of it than that.

Charles Fryar isn't trying to capitalize on Irving's success.

"People think I came to Nebraska because of Irving, but I've always wanted to play here," Charles Fryar said. "I wanted to play at Nebraska before Irving ever came here. It was either Nebraska or Penn State.

"They're national powers, and it's hard to beat those 76,000 fans every time you come onto the field."

Another thing that might need to be clarified is, Nebraska didn't recruit Charles Fryar as a favor to Irving. The Cornhuskers had a legitimate interest.

Charles Fryar played for a Burlington City, N.J., High School team that was ranked first in South Jersey and 10th in the state his senior year.

He made recruiting trips to Maryland, Penn State and Iowa State and visited Michigan on his own. The Cornhuskers couldn't give him a scholarship, however,

because he didn't have a 2.0 grade-point average.

As a result, "I could go to a junior college or come here and not play my first year," said Fryar.

He decided to walk on at Nebraska and sit out a season, buoyed by the promise of a scholarship if he made his grades.

Last fall, Fryar was awarded a scholarship, as promised, and assigned to Nebraska's junior varsity team. He was a freshman in eligibility.

He reported to fall camp with visions of following Irving as a wingback. Charles Fryar figured he had the qualifications to be a wingback. He'd played wingback and tailback in high school. His size — 5-foot-9, 170 — wasn't a detriment, and he'd been timed at :04.4 in the 40-yard dash.

As far as he was concerned, it all added up to wingback.

The Nebraska coaches, however, had different ideas. They thought Fryar was well-suited to be a defensive back. The subject first came up last season, before he'd even stepped onto the practice field. "They told me just to think about it," Fryar said.

"So I thought about it and said, 'I'd rather play wingback.'"

This fall, Coach Tom Osborne suggested Fryar reconsider his decision, just to be sure he was doing what was best for him. "Coach Osborne told me he'd like me to try defensive back because of my speed and agility. He put a couple of

things on the (chalk) board, and they looked pretty convincing," said Fryar.

What Osborne wrote on the board spelled opportunity for Fryar.

"He told me to come out, give defensive back a try, and if it didn't work out, I could switch to wingback. When he switched me, I was pretty down. I didn't think defensive back was going to be much," Fryar said.

"But I went along with it."

On the second series of the junior varsity's season-opener, a 56-0 victory over the Iowa State jayvees, Fryar made his first unassisted tackle, blasting the Cyclones' fullback for a seven-yard loss on an ill-fated screen pass.

Those in a Memorial Stadium audience estimated at 5,000 quickly became familiar with jersey No. 29. Fryar made a season-long assault on receivers and finished as the jayvees' leading tackler, with 24 total, 13 unassisted.

Immediately after the Cornhusker jayvees wrapped up a 5-0 season with a 48-7 victory over Ellsworth Junior College, Scott Downing, Nebraska's freshman defensive coordinator, praised Fryar's play. "Holy cow, that guy can break on the ball, come up and hit," Downing said, emphasizing "hit."

"You can always say Charles Fryar had a good game."

In Fryar's estimation, "it's more relaxed on defense, and I get to hit people instead of being hit."

He'd still rather play wingback, "but I think it's going to be kind of hard because I think I've found a home at defensive back," said Fryar.

Everything seems to point in that direction. When the junior varsity season ended, Bob Thornton, Nebraska's defensive backs coach, asked Fryar if he'd be interested in practicing with the varsity. He not only practiced, he was one of five freshmen included on the Cornhuskers' Fiesta Bowl travel roster.

Obviously, Fryar will enter spring practice as a defensive back.

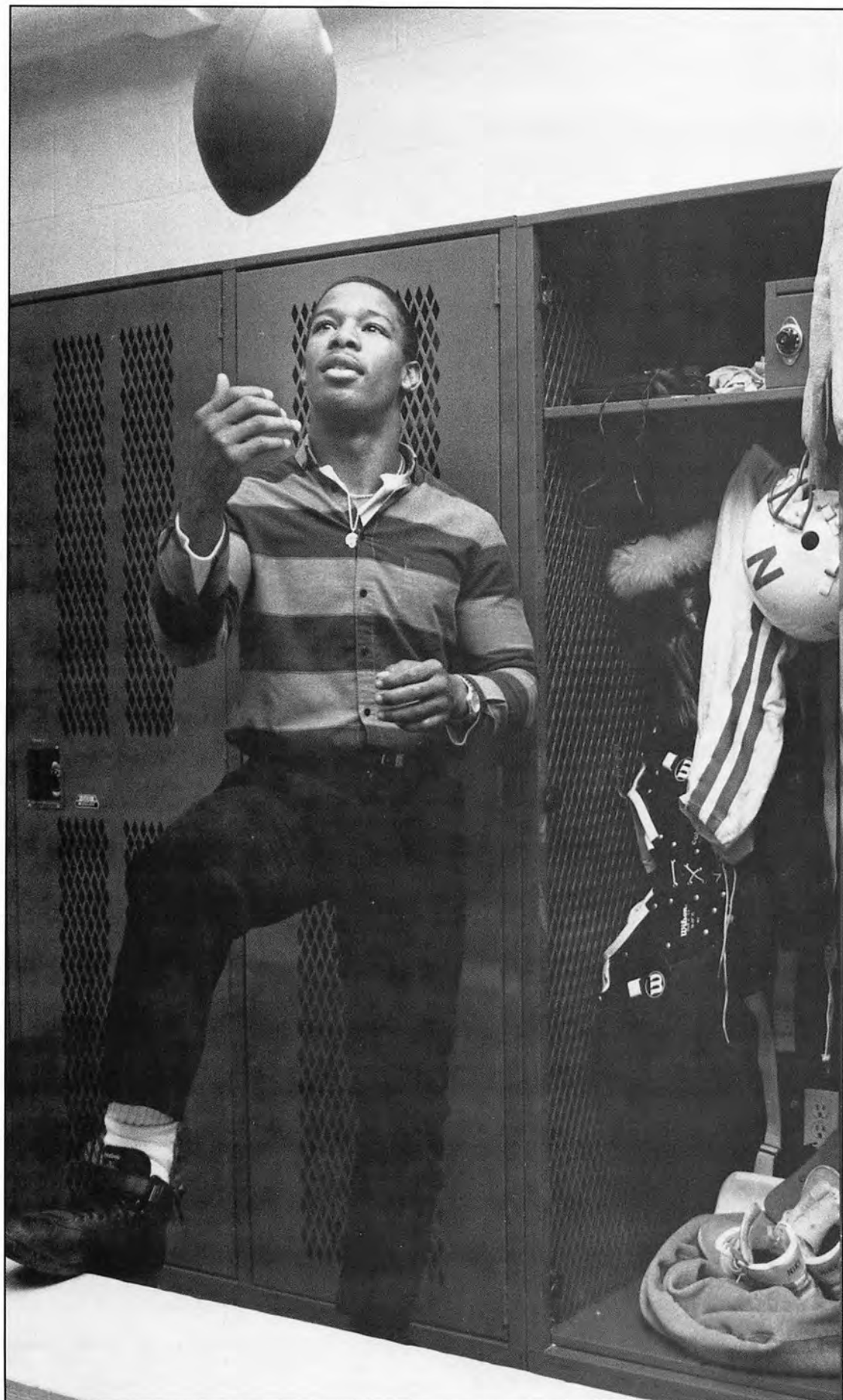
If the junior varsity season was any indication, he also should have an opportunity to earn a job returning kicks. He averaged 35.2 yards on five kickoff returns, 14.8 yards on 12 punts returns and scored two touchdowns.

In a 48-0 victory over the William Jewell College jayvees, Fryar had a 73-yard punt return for a touchdown, after having a 95-yard kickoff return nullified by a penalty, and in a 49-6 pounding of Waldorf Junior College, he returned a kickoff 100 yards to score.

Actually, it was 103 yards — Fryar caught the ball three yards deep in the end zone — but under NCAA rules, he could be credited with only 100 yards.

Dave Gillespie, a freshman assistant who's in the pressbox during games, was

Charles Fryar make
look like famous ex-
Husker wingback,
cousin Irving, but
he's looking to make
his mark as a player
at defensive back.



1985 J-V Recap

Nebraska 56, Iowa State JV 0

Iowa State	0	0	0	0 — 0
Nebraska	28	14	7	7 — 56

N—Clare 9 run (Drennan kick)
 N—S. Taylor 1 run (kick failed)
 N—Knox 66 run (Knox run)
 N—Valladao fumble recovery in end zone (Drennan kick)
 N—Novacek 22 pass from Preston (Drennan kick)
 N—Clare 3 run (Johnson kick)
 N—S. Taylor 12 run (Payne kick)
 N—Clark 6 run (Rapierski kick)

Highlights: Iowa State finished with a net of minus-1 yard rushing, a total offense of 97 yards and only five first downs against Nebraska's defense. Ken Clark rushed for 119 yards and Tyreese Knox gained 102 yards.

Nebraska 30, Coffeyville JC 7

Coffeyville	7	0	0	0 — 7
Nebraska	7	17	0	6 — 30

N—S. Taylor 62 run (Johnson kick)
 C—Washington 58 run (Robertson kick)
 N—Knox 1 run (Johnson kick)
 N—Novacek 27 pass from S. Taylor (Johnson kick)
 N—Johnson 22 field goal
 N—Knox 2 run (Payne kick)

Highlights: The Nebraska jayvees recovered four fumbles. Steve Taylor rushed for 90 yards and passed for 113 yards. Richard Bell and Bump Novacek each caught two passes.

Nebraska 49, Waldorf JC 6

Waldorf	0	0	6	0 — 6
Nebraska	0	28	7	14 — 49

N—S. Taylor 22 run (Johnson kick)
 N—S. Taylor 2 run (Johnson kick)
 N—Bell 83 pass from S. Taylor (Johnson kick)
 N—Novacek 16 pass from S. Taylor (Payne kick)
 W—Otte 7 run (kick failed)
 N—Fryar 100 kickoff return (Johnson kick)
 N—S. Taylor 30 run (Payne kick)
 N—Schneider 9 run (Rapierski kick)

Highlights: The Cornhusker jayvees capitalized on three fumble recoveries and three pass interceptions. Steve Taylor completed four of eight passes for 120 yards and two touchdowns. Richard Bell was the leading receiver, with two catches for 91 yards. Taylor also was the leading rusher, gained 47 yards on nine carries and scoring three touchdowns. Charles Fryar scored a touchdown on a 100-yard kickoff return.

Nebraska 48, William Jewell JV 0

William Jewell	0	0	0	0 — 0
Nebraska	13	14	21	0 — 48

N—Clark 11 run (Johnson kick)
 N—S. Taylor 6 run (pass failed)
 N—Schmidt 6 run (kick failed)
 N—Knox 70 run (Luben pass from Preston)
 N—Bell 73 pass from S. Taylor (Johnson kick)
 N—Fryar 73 punt return (Payne kick)
 N—Stoner 3 pass from S. Taylor (Payne kick)

Highlights: Tyreese Knox ran for 175 yards on 11 attempts. Steve Taylor scored his seventh touchdown of the season, one short of Nebraska's single-season freshman record. Charles Fryar returned the second-half kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown, but the play was called back by a penalty. Soon after, Fryar had a 73-yard punt return for a touchdown.

Nebraska 48, Ellsworth JC 7

Ellsworth	0	0	0	7 — 7
Nebraska	7	20	7	14 — 48

N—Schmidt 7 run (Drennan kick)
 N—J. Taylor 1 run (Drennan kick)
 N—J. Taylor 5 run (kick failed)
 N—Bell 7 pass from Preston (Johnson kick)
 N—J. Taylor 8 run (Payne kick)
 N—Harchelroad 6 run (Payne kick)
 E—Hammond 16 pass from Hawkins (Schloesser kick)
 N—Knox 8 run (Rapierski kick)

Final Team Stats

	NU	OPP
First downs	105	48
First downs rushing	74	13
First downs passing	27	26
First downs penalty	4	9
Rushing attempts	316	182
Net yards rushing	1,788	396
Net yards passing	625	541
Passes attempted	63	117
Passes completed	33	55
Passes had intercepted	5	7
Total offensive plays	379	299
Total net yards	2,413	937
Average per game	482.2	187.4
Average per play	6.4	3.1
Fumbles-lost	17-9	20-13
Penalties-yards	44-411	33-256
Interceptions-yards	7-92	5-57
Punts-average	17-36.3	40-33.9
Punt returns-avg.	24-10.8	21-3.0
Kickoff returns-avg.	6-35.3	28-17.1
Points-average	231-46.2	20-2.0

Final Individual Stats

Rushing — Tyreese Knox 55-483, Ken Clark 58-338, Brian Harchelroad 40-227, Steve Taylor 24-218, Dave Clare 52-208, Sam Schmidt 18-66, Russ Luben 16-56, Richard Bell 7-42, Jeff Taylor 9-34, Micah Heibel 3-31, Steve Schneider 5-28, Mike Preston 18-22, Kevin Koenig 4-19, Jim Dobesh 1-8, Jerry Mliner 4-6, Don Osbie 1-2. Totals 316-1,788.

Passing — Steve Taylor 19-32-2, 425 yds., 5 TD; Mike Preston 11-21-1, 128 yds., 2 TD; Jeff Taylor 3-4-1, 72 yds.; Scott Beckler 0-1-0; Jerry Mliner 0-1-0. Totals 33-63-5, 625 yds., 7 TD.

Pass receiving — Richard Bell 10-261, 3 TD; Bump Novacek 5-96, 3 TD; Chip Bahe 3-66; Monte Kratzenstein 5-65; Steve Schneider 3-48; Chad Stoner 2-37, 1 TD; Tony Avant 3-34; Jim Dobesh 1-10; Todd Repschlaeger 1-8. Totals 33-625, 7 TD.

Scoring — Steve Taylor 7 TD, 42; Tyreese Knox 5 TD, 2 EX, 32; Richard Bell 3 TD, 18; Bump Novacek 3 TD, 18; Jeff Taylor 3 TD, 18; Chris Johnson 12 EX, 1 FG, 15; Dave Clare 2 TD, 12; Ken Clark 2 TD, 12; Sam Schmidt 2 TD, 12; Charles Fryar 2 TD, 12; Dave Payne 7 EX, 7; Brian Harchelroad 1 TD, 6; Steve Schneider 1 TD, 6; Chad Stoner 1 TD, 6; Ray Valladao 1 TD, 6; Chris Drennan 4 EX, 4; Ranier Rapierski 3 EX, 3; Russ Luben 2 EX, 2. Totals 33 TD, 26 EX, 1 FG, 231.

DEFENSE

Tackles — Charles Fryar 24 (13-11), Chad Murrell 22 (12-10), Marvin Sanders 21 (15-6), Scott Ashley 18 (9-9), LeRoy Etienne 18 (12-6), Cleo Rice 16 (10-6), Randall Jobman 15 (7-8), Tye Doll 15 (10-5), Steve DeShazer 15 (12-3), Brad Ferguson 14 (10-4), Rob Leuck 13 (4-9), Randy Gartner 10 (6-4), Gary Korisko 10 (6-4), Tom Trueblood 10 (7-3), Ray Valladao 10 (8-2), Paul DiFilippo 9 (5-4), Greg Ching 9 (6-3), Scott Dostal 9 (7-2), Jeff Long 8 (3-5), Brad Benda 7 (1-6), Marc Ahrens 6 (3-3), Dan McArdle 5 (2-3), Mike Mauch 5 (3-2), Dan Simon 5 (3-2), Pat McCashland 5 (3-2), Jay Scheel 5 (4-1), Scott Vampola 5 (4-1), Todd Eno 4 (3-1), Broderick Thomas 4 (3-1), Kevin Miller 3 (2-1), John Roe 3 (2-1), John Zigrest 3 (2-1), Matt Jewett 2 (2-0), Shane Monthey 1 (0-1), Bill Settles 1 (1-0).

Interceptions — Scott Beckler 1-31, Charles Fryar 1-28, Scott Vampola 1-10, Chad Murrell 1-9, Rob Leuck 1-9, Tom Trueblood 1-5, Jay Scheel 1-0.

Sacks — Ray Valladao 3, Tye Doll 2, Broderick Thomas 1, Scott Ashley 1, Steve DeShazer 1, Tom Trueblood 1, Gary Korisko 1, Scott Dostal 1, Scott Vampola 1, Kevin Miller 1, John Roe 1.

Punt returns — Charles Fryar 12-178, 14.8; Richard Bell 5-55, 11.0; Dan McArdle 3-7, 2.3; Steve Schneider 1-2, 2.0. Totals 24-258, 10.8.

Kickoff returns — Charles Fryar 5-176, 35.2; Richard Bell 4-52, 13.0. Totals 10-212, 21.2.

Punting — Scott Beckler 15-36.8, Bump Novacek 2-32.5. Totals 17-36.3.

yelling on the headphones to the sideline: "Down it, down it."

But "it was open," said Fryar, who couldn't hear Gillespie, anyway. "Usually anywhere from five yards deep in the end zone I'll come out. If it's like six or seven, I'll stay in. The coaches leave it up to me. I don't make too many errors."

With his speed, once he reaches the wall of blockers, it's no contest.

It was that way for the jayvees' opponents in 1985 — no contest.

Nebraska's junior varsity, fortified by one of the best freshman classes in recent history, went undefeated with an offense that averaged 46.2 points per game and a defense that allowed only three touchdowns and 21 points.

The only jayvee defense that was stingier over a five-game schedule was the one in 1975, which allowed 18 points, all in the final game of the season. The 1981 junior varsity also yielded only 21 points in five games.

"After five games, they (Nebraska's defenders) were just getting to know each other," Downing said. "But they had an identity. We really felt like we had a lot of good players on defense, and every one of them was aggressive. They all wanted to hit, whether they were No. 1 or No. 22."

The defensive backs set the tempo. Fryar led the team in total tackles, and cornerback Marvin Sanders led in solo tackles with 15. The scholarship freshman from Thornwood South High School in Markham, Ill., was third in total tackles with 21.

Safety Chad Murrell from Grand Island was second to Fryar with 22.

Scholarship recruits weren't the only players who contributed. According to Downing, some of the most impressive defenders were walk-ons, among them tackle Tye Doll from Arapahoe, linebacker Brad Ferguson from Chadron, tackle Jeff Long from Norfolk and end Scott Ashley, who came to Nebraska from Altadena, Calif., along with scholarship wingback Richard Bell.

Bell, who caught 10 passes for 261 yards and three touchdowns, was occasionally compared to Irving Fryar, too, particularly when he and quarterback Steve Taylor teamed up.

Taylor, of course, drew most of the attention, quickly proving he was every bit as good as everyone thought he'd be when he came to Nebraska from Lincoln High in San Diego, heralded as the next Turner Gill. "Steve makes a lot of things happen," said Cornhusker freshman Coach Dan Young.

Taylor, who played in four junior varsity games before being promoted to the varsity, finished with 19 pass completions in 32 attempts, for 425 yards and five touchdowns, and averaged 9.1 yards per attempt on 24 carries.

He led the jayvees in scoring with seven

touchdowns, four of them 20 yards or longer. His longest was 62 yards.

The junior varsity's leading rusher was redshirted freshman Tyreese Knox from Daly City, Calif., who carried 55 times for 483 yards and five TDs.

Ken Clark, a scholarship freshman from Omaha Bryan, gained 338 yards on 58 carries and scored two touchdowns.

"We felt Kenny Clark probably would be a defensive back, but he came in here, showed that he had more quickness than we thought and did an extremely good job at I-back," Young said.

The offense operated behind a line anchored by center Chris O'Gara, a scholarship freshman from Madison, Wis. The starting tackles were usually Tim Moore from Atwater, Calif.; and Brad Rother, a walkon from Bellevue East; with a pair of Texans, John Roschal from Houston and Bill Bobbora from Amarillo, at the guards.

That line alternated with one which included center Roger Fitzke, guards John Strasheim and Len LeCompte, and tackles Kent Wells and Greg Hinson.

In Young's three seasons as freshman coach, the junior varsity was 14-1, losing only to Waldorf Junior College, 23-21, in 1984.

With the retirement of Cleve Fischer, Young moves up to the varsity, joining Milt Tenopir in coaching the offensive line and handling in-state recruiting.

Young will remember the 1985 jayvee team as his best, as well as one of the best in Nebraska history. "These guys have to rank up there awfully high," said Young. "I don't know of any team that's dominated like this one."

"We had so many people who are going to contribute (to the varsity). It has to be a class that people look to."

Dick Foster, the head coach at perennial power Coffeyville, Kan., Junior College, seconded that opinion after watching his team lose to the Cornhusker jayvees 30-7.

"If we had an all-star team from our league, we still couldn't beat Nebraska with all that (freshman) talent. They had a great year recruiting," he said. "They've got three, four or five of those guys who will probably play as true sophomores. That's really unusual."

"I coached at Kansas for four years during the '70s, and this has to be one of their best recruiting classes. We don't have a player on our team who's a scholarship kid as far as Nebraska is concerned. They've got great talent."

Three of the first-year freshman made an immediate step to the varsity. In addition to Taylor, defensive end Broderick Thomas and linebacker LeRoy Etienne logged varsity playing time and made the trip to the Fiesta Bowl.

Thomas was the first to be promoted, after injuries left the varsity thin.

Etienne caught Foster's eye.

"That No. 47 (Etienne) is a great, great linebacker. I don't see how they can keep No. 47 from playing (with the varsity) next season," said Foster.

"I don't know what their linebacker situation is, but he's a good one."

The seeds for success have been planted, according to Etienne, who was credited with 18 tackles while playing for the junior varsity. Already "we're pretty much a team," he said of the freshmen. "We realize we're going to be together for a couple of years."

At first, "everyone was trying to impress the coaches," Etienne said, recalling the early days of fall camp. "I was doing a lot of smashing. The coaches told me to settle down; they knew I could play."

The much-publicized athlete from New Iberia, La., is one of several freshmen who demonstrated this fall he could.

"There were some people in the superstar category when they came in, and they generally played that way. They lived up to expectations," Young said.

Five victories give Nebraska 100 since the modern freshman-junior varsity program was established in 1956. During that time, the Husker jayvees have lost only 10 times. ♦

Depth Chart Offense

TE—Bump Novacek; Monte Kratzenstein
LT—Brad Rother; Kent Wells
LG—Bill Bobbora; John Strasheim
C—Chris O'Gara; Roger Fitzke
RG—John Roschal; Len LeCompte
RT—Tim Moore; Greg Hinson
SE—Tony Avant; Tim McCoy
QB—Steve Taylor; Mike Preston
IB—Ken Clark; Dave Clare
FB—Sam Schmidt; Russ Luben
WB—Richard Bell; Steve Schneider

Defense

LE—Randall Jobman; Kevin Miller
LT—Tye Doll; Ray Valladao
MG—Brad Benda; Cleo Rice
RT—Jeff Long; Greg Ching
RE—Scott Ashley; Scott Dostal
LB—Brad Ferguson; Randy Gartner
LB—Steve DeShazer; Rob Lueck
CB—Marvin Sanders; Mike Mauch
CB—Charles Fryar; Jay Scheel
M—Tom Trueblood; Scott Vampola
S—Chad Murrell; Dan McCardle



1985 Husker baseball captains (left to right), Mike Dobbs, Paul Meyers, Burt Beedy.

Husker Ball Club Optimism Can't Be Contained

*Emphasis will be placed on
depth and strong relief game.*

Whenver he has a free moment, which isn't often, John Sanders lets his mind wander to the 1985 Nebraska baseball season. He has flashbacks.

What the Cornhusker coach remembers is a team that rewrote the offensive section of the school record book, averaged nearly 10 runs per game and battled its way into

NCAA Western-I Regional as an at-large entrant.

The 1985 season was the Nebraska baseball team's version of 'The Scoring Explosion.' The Cornhuskers ranked fifth in the nation in runs scored and finished with a 45-24 record. They were rated 16th in the final regular-season ESPN-Collegiate

Baseball poll.

Sanders hasn't forgotten.

But what he remembers most is watching his team compete in the NCAA tournament at Palo Alto, Calif. The Cornhuskers' two losses there were by one run each. They came so close to reaching the College World Series in Omaha.

Sanders isn't living in the past, of course, but he's the first to admit the memory of 1985 will have a pronounced effect on Nebraska's 1986 season. It already has. "The 1985 ballclub raised our expectation level like the 1979 and 1980 ballclubs did," Sanders said.

The Cornhuskers were NCAA regional qualifiers in those seasons, too.

According to Sanders, that success is an "intangible" and reason for optimism going into this season.

"It's a feeling that people want to see it happen again so they can get the job done this time," he said.

Sanders sees that attitude every day in practice, in each player who was a part of the success in 1985.

And it rubs off on the newcomers.

Nebraska has great expectations for 1986, and "this ballclub looks exciting,"

Head Coach John Sanders can't help but remember last year's club which made it to the NCAA regional qualifiers and nearly to the College World Series.



Sanders said.

That estimation is shared by others, including *Baseball America* newspaper, which ranked the Cornhuskers 22nd in its annual pre-season poll.

The optimism is based on a potential balance that didn't exist in either of the last two seasons. Nebraska's pitching staff was one of the best in the nation two seasons ago, finishing with an earned-run average of 3.01. In 1985, the Cornhuskers' staff ERA nearly doubled (5.98), but the offense picked up the slack, establishing school records for batting average (.339), hits (758), runs (676), home runs (94), doubles (143) and RBIs (603).

"Last year we hit the ball, but we didn't have the pitching, although I felt like we came around at the end of the season," said Mike Evans, Nebraska's pitching coach. "We asked a lot of our hitters."

Evans expects the Cornhuskers to hit just as well as they did last season, with an improved pitching staff.

Sanders uses football metaphors to compare his 1986 team with the two that immediately preceded it. "Two years ago we thought we were a wishbone team, stealing all the bases," he said. "Last year we

thought we were going to be a veer team and we actually ended up being a power-I. This year we might be the veer team, with some power, some running and the ability to attack in several different ways.

"I don't know if we have better balance than we've had the last couple of years. We'll have to wait and see how our club reacts. But going in, I feel we have quality in our quantity."

Nebraska lost 29 of its home runs with the departure of two players, first baseman Mike Duncan (15) and catcher Bill McGuire (14), both of whom were drafted and signed.

But two other players who combined to hit 32 home runs return, Paul Meyers and Rich King, "so we should be effective in that department," said Sanders. "And we like to think that even if we did lose a little bit of power and punch, we gained some speed."

Meyers and Larry Mims stole 49 bases between them last season. Meyers, who had 25 steals, will run more often now that Duncan is gone.

With Duncan batting cleanup, Sanders was hesitant to send Meyers because pitchers "would challenge 'Dunc' with Meyers

on first," he said.

"We were very conscious of that when Paul got on base."

Sanders may pencil in a right-handed hitter like Mark Kister in the No. 4 spot in the batting order this season.

"We might trade a little power in the No. 4 hole for a different look so we can run the No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 hitters more," Sanders said. "That'd be interesting. And we might go with more power down the line, get a running game from the first through fourth holes, just run some runs, and then look for power at the bottom."

King, for example, may bat seventh again this season. He hit .313 with 15 home runs, 15 doubles, four triples and 71 runs-batted-in there last season.

Former Cornhusker Pete O'Brien, who plays first base for the Texas Rangers, batted seventh in Nebraska's order. "You get to see a lot of fastballs there," said Sanders.

Live fastballs are something Evans hopes opposing hitters see from the Cornhusker pitching staff this season. Two, and possibly three, members of the 1984 staff will return to give Evans experience with which to build.



Pitching Coach Mike Evans is held aloft by his crew (left to right), Phil Harrison, Mark Honnor, Mike Dobbs and Kip Gross, in order of probable starting rotation.

Left-handers Phil Harrison and Mark Honnor, who sat out last season, have got some academic problems straightened out and figure to be half of Nebraska's four-man Big Eight rotation.

Senior Jeff Koenigsman, another left-hander, is the third who could return. He missed last year with shoulder problems, and "we're not sure how his arm's going to come around," said Evans, who coached Koenigsman in high school at Omaha Creighton Prep.

The problem was "a bicep that leads into the rotator cuff; it was frayed," Evans said. "It's not coming back as fast as we thought it would, but Jeff's working hard, and if he can get it rehabilitated, he could be one of our best pitchers. But even without him, we're two guys better than last year."

Harrison, Honnor and Koenigsman were expected to be the core of the Cornhuskers' 1985 pitching staff. When they couldn't play, Evans had to start from scratch. To complicate the situation, Nebraska hadn't recruited with pitchers in mind.

This year the Cornhuskers did. They identified their recruiting needs as if none of those three would be available.

Harrison, a sophomore from Glendale, Calif., set a school record for victories as a freshman in 1984, going 10-3 with a 2.66 earned-run average.

He went through fall practice with his weight down and the velocity on his

fastball up. In 25 innings of work during the fall, Harrison struck out 34 with a fastball clocked on a Raygun at speeds up to 86 mph.

Harrison reported for pre-season practice in January a little bit overweight, according to Evans.

"Phil had the philosophy that he needed the weight to throw real hard, but he ended up throwing hard in the fall being as small (light) as he's ever been," Evans said. "I don't think the weight has anything to do with it. When he's in good shape, he's more balanced and he's able to use the rest of his body to follow through the way he should. I'm not too much on him having that extra weight."

Evans would like Harrison to pitch at "about 188 pounds" this spring.

Honor, who struck out 57 in 52½ innings two seasons ago, "really pitched strong over the summer," Evans said. "Every indication is, he's done very well. Some of the guys who faced him in the summer say he was outstanding, very tough."

Right-hander Mike Dobbs also had an outstanding summer pitching for Evans in the prestigious Cape Cod League. The senior from Lincoln was the most effective pitcher the Harwich team had, according to Evans. Among the other Harwich pitchers were Kurt Krippner of Texas, Todd Stottlemire, son of former major league pitcher Mel Stottlemire, and

Louisiana State's Mark Guthrie.

Dobbs ranked in the league's Top 10, finishing 4-2 with a 2.83 earned-run average and three complete games.

"We really look for Mike to take over," Evans said.

The other pitchers picked Dobbs as their staff captain.

The fourth starter in the conference rotation will probably be sophomore Kip Gross, another right-hander who transferred from Murray State Junior College in Tishomingo, Okla., where he was a third-round pick of the St. Louis Cardinals in last January's draft.

Gross, who's from Gering, Ne., spent a freshman redshirt season with the Cornhuskers before going to junior college. He was a pleasant surprise during fall camp. "He graded out very high in our system," said Evans. "He came here as a freshman and didn't have any type of form, but he had a good arm. He's really improved. Kip's probably the hardest thrower on our team. His top speed in the fall was about 91 mph on the Raygun. He definitely doesn't do that all the time but he's the best on the staff."

Rocky Johnson, who also went from Nebraska to Murray State and back, is another pitcher who graded well in the fall and figures prominently in Evans' plans this spring.

Johnson and sophomore left-hander John Lepley will probably begin the season as the Cornhuskers' long relievers.

"They can be a good combination, right and left," Evans said.

Johnson has displayed excellent control. He threw 404 pitches in 25½ innings during the fall and walked only three. He struck out 23, nearly one an inning. Naturally, "we felt good about that," said Evans.

Lepley, who was 5-1 last season, apparently has overcome some control problems with a year's maturity.

Kevin Merrill, a sophomore transfer from Connors State Junior College in Oklahoma, has the inside track on being Nebraska's No. 1 short reliever. A right-hander, he was primarily a catcher at Omaha Gross High School.

He helped Connors State get to the National Junior College Athletic Association World Series last season. "Kevin throws hard, and he's a very good competitor," Evans said.

So is left-hander Joel Sealer, a basketball

player who plans to join the baseball team this spring. Sealer pitched well during the fall, striking out six of seven batters he faced in a scrimmage with Creighton, "and we'd like to use him as a starter," said Evans. "It just depends on how much work we can get him."

In any case, "Sealer's capable of stepping right in."

Right-hander Phil Goguen, a redshirted freshman, and left-hander Phil Lieberher, a junior college transfer, could move into the bullpen or become spot starters if they can overcome some control problems, and right-hander Stevins Spurgeon, another transfer from Murray State, should be able to contribute once he becomes comfortable with the submarine motion to which he switched in the fall.

"He's shown, at times, that he can be a good reliever," Evans said.

Depending on Koenigsman's recovery and with Dale Kistaitis, a freshman left-hander from Ralston, Ne., the Cornhuskers could have 13 pitchers competing for jobs. Evans would like to settle on eight, which means five probably won't get much work.

That's the bad part. The good part is, "I feel we could go as deep as 10 or even all 13," said Evans.

His No. 1 priority is relief. "We felt like that was our biggest weakness last year —

we didn't have anybody who could shut the door on people. We're going to try to find someone who can shut the door. When we get to the eighth and ninth inning, we want to have someone who can go out there and finish the game for us.

"That's our main objective, so guys you'd normally think of as starters might be in the bullpen."

"We'll be able to pitch situationally," Sanders said. "We should have balance in our pitching."

Nebraska should have depth among its position players, something it didn't have a year ago.

Meyers and senior Burt Beattie are the other captains (along with Dobbs).

This could very well be Meyers' final season at Nebraska. If he performs at the level of his first two seasons, Meyers is bound to be a high-round pick in the June major league draft. Surprisingly, he wasn't drafted out of Omaha Westside High School.

Meyers was picked as a pre-season All-American by *Collegiate Baseball*, and *Baseball America* included him on its 1986 All-American checklist.

Last season he led the Cornhuskers in hitting (.397) and home runs (17). He established a school record for base hits with 100 and drove in 86 runs to earn first-team All-Big Eight honors.

During the summer, Meyers played for the U.S. National team, which traveled to Korea and Japan. In 35 games, he batted .328 with four home runs and 16 runs-batted-in. His 17 doubles were nearly twice as many as anyone else.

Meyers also led the team in triples, with three; he was tied for the team lead in stolen bases (10); he finished second in total base hits (49), and he was tied for second in runs (34).

"Paul's a complete player," said Sanders. "He has the five tools of a great player in that he can run, hit, throw, field and hit with power."

Meyers will be flanked in center field by King in left and Todd Bunge in right. Bunge, a junior from St. Louis, was an All-American at Crowder Junior College in Neosho, Mo., last season.

According to Evans, if Bunge plays in the spring the way he did in the fall, "it'll be like having two Paul Meyers' out there; one in right and one in center. Our pitchers have so much confidence in that outfield. They have to be one of the best around."

The 5-10, 185-pound Bunge "firmly established himself in the fall as a two-way player, offensively and defensively," said Sanders. "Todd gives us a little different look out there. He's a very good player, and he bats left-handed, which is a real positive for us."

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Paul Meyers is warming up to repeat an All-American season.

Sanders plans to bat Bunge second in the order, behind Mims and in front of Meyers. Mims, an All-Big Eight shortstop, was the Cornhuskers' No. 2 hitter a year ago. He batted .337, drove in 59 runs and scored a school-record 99 runs.

This spring he'll be the leadoff man and a second baseman.

Sanders moved Mims to second for several reasons. For one, that's probably the position at which he has the best chance to play professionally. For another, there's a "night and day difference" between batting first and batting second.

"Because of the additional responsibility to the offense, we're taking away some of the defensive responsibility," Sanders said. "This should free him up and allow him to be the catalyst for our offense."

The switch in positions "can benefit him and us," said Sanders.

Mims is the most experienced of Nebraska's infielders.

Moving Mims to second was facilitated by the consistent play in the fall of senior Curtiss Heflin at shortstop. "He's so con-

sistent," Evans said. "Curtiss can make the routine plays at short, and Mims has made some outstanding plays at second."

Bruce Wobken, a redshirted freshman from Scribner, Ne., can play any position in the infield, so he'll provide Sanders with some options.

Beattie, who was drafted by the Minnesota Twins but elected to return for his senior season, has also changed positions. He was the regular third baseman a year ago, but now he's catching.

In his first season at Nebraska, after transferring from Crowder Junior College, Beattie hit .318 with six home runs and 64 runs-batted-in.

Kister, a draftable junior from Hastings who batted .373 with five home runs and 67 RBIs a year ago, will catch some and probably play third base. He's come back strong from a knee injury which threatened to end his catching.

He and Beattie could alternate at catcher and third base, one of the positions that will need to be settled during pre-season practice.

Another is first base, which likely will be handled by one of three players. The competition there includes junior Bryan Newton, who spent his freshman year at Nebraska before transferring to Murray State for a season, sophomore Jeff Taylor, a quarterback on the football team, and Rich Lenhart, a transfer from Southwestern Junior College who also could play in the outfield.

"It's not like we don't have good athletes to take care of the position; we do. We just need someone to take charge," Sanders said.

Even if he doesn't take charge at first, Taylor, a teammate of Meyers at Westside High, has a chance to contribute this spring. According to Sanders, Taylor's batting style is reminiscent of that of former Husker Rick Evans. "Jeff's basically tension-free as a hitter. He gets in there and hacks away," said Sanders.

"The question is whether he can refine his athletic skills to this level. He's certainly out there competing hard."

One thing is certain. "If he (Taylor) can play and help this ballclub, everybody'll be happy," Sanders said. "He's a great kid, and he wants to give baseball a good shot."

The Cornhuskers will begin the 1986 season with high expectations and an optimism which carries over from last year's NCAA regional qualifier.

"We lost some contributors to that team," said Sanders. Among the most notable were Duncan, McGuire, Jeff Carter, Kurt Eubanks, Mark Davis, Roger Webb, Jeff Mays and Bill Mulligan.

"But it's not like everybody's gone. We've got several back." ♦

Nebraska Baseball Schedule

The Nebraska baseball team's 60-game schedule for 1986 includes only eight games against non-NCAA Division I schools.

"That's the best we could do in a non-Division I area. I'd like to see another Division I school in a similar area with a better schedule," said Cornhusker Coach John Sanders. "That's about as tough as you can get."

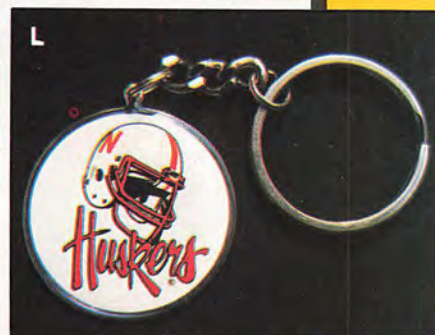
Nebraska's season is slated to begin with back-to-back single games against Missouri Western at Buck Beltzer Field, March 5-6.

The Cornhuskers also are scheduled to play Kearney State and Wayne State before their annual spring trip.

They'll play seven games in Fresno, *Continued on page 62*

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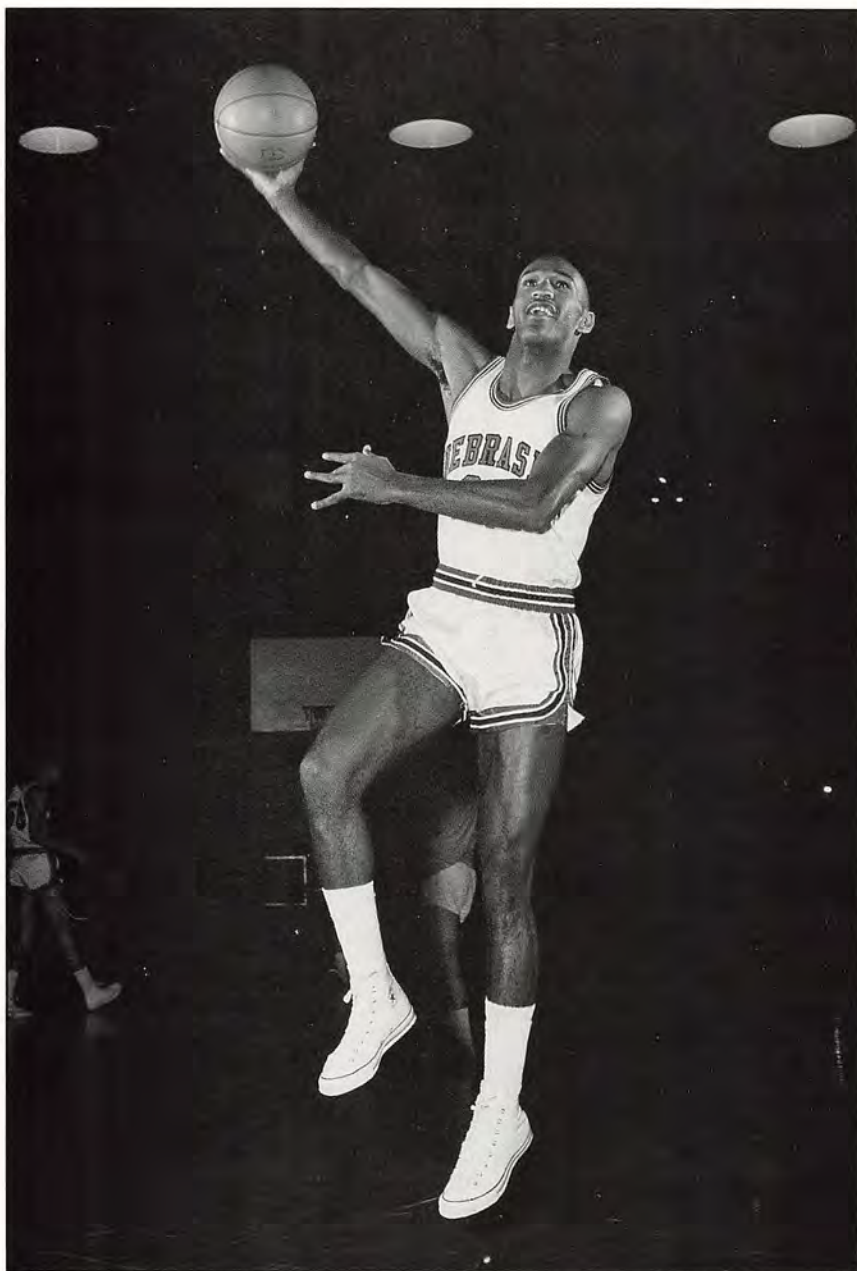
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Stuart Lantz played in the pros for 10 years following his college days at Nebraska. Baack says, "It was nice to have him on your side."

1966 Haven't Surpassed

Two in particular have captured the imagination of the fans: Tom Baack and Stuart Lantz, the freshman team's leading scorers.

Baack and Lantz have joined juniors Willie Campbell and Nate Branch and senior Grant Simmons in leading the Cornhuskers to an 11-2 start. They've already got one more victory than they had in all of 1964-65.

Kansas, ranked sixth in the nation, comes to Lincoln with a 13-2 record. The high-flying Jayhawks, runners-up to Oklahoma State the previous year, have won four straight in the Big Eight.

Nebraska is 3-0 in the conference.

The Cornhuskers have dropped eight games in a row to Kansas, including a 71-61 loss in the opening round of the conference pre-season tournament at Kansas City. When the Jayhawks race off to a 28-19 lead, it appears they're going to make it nine in a row.

But guard Jim Damm, another Nebraska sophomore from Bellflower, Calif., comes off the bench with the Huskers trailing 26-19 and sparks a rally to give them a lead they won't relinquish.

Kansas goes ahead 28-19 before Nebraska comes back with a vengeance. During the next six minutes, the Cornhuskers hit nine of 14 field goal attempts and six of six free throws.

Two field goals by Lantz and one by Damm cut the score to 28-25.

Walt Wesley, Kansas' 6-11 center, hits two free throws to get the lead back to five, 30-25.

Damm hits a jump shot, and Branch

The victory was one of the greatest in Nebraska basketball history, 83-75 over Kansas, to the delight of an overflow audience of 8,566 at the NU Coliseum.

It was perhaps the finest effort by a team that was arguably the best ever to represent the school.

The late Joe Cipriano assembled it, bringing together athletes from all parts of the country — a 6-foot-6 center from Seattle, forwards from Fort Wayne, Ind., and Palo Alto, Calif., and guards from Uniontown, Pa., and Omaha.

It's oldie but goodie time.

Ready now? Let's turn back the clock.

The year is 1966.

Cipriano is in his third season at Nebraska after taking over a program that has suffered through 12 consecutive losing seasons. Cipriano's first two teams have extended that string to 14, finishing 7-18 in 1963-64 and 10-15 in 1964-65, a year in which the winds of change have begun to blow.

While the 1964-65 team, led by the scoring (15.2) and rebounding (7.4) of Fred Hare, was producing one upset — a 74-73, last-second victory over No. 1 Michigan — and a sixth-place tie with Kansas State in the Big Eight, the Cornhusker freshmen were raising expectations for the future.

Grant Simmons went on to play in the American Basketball Association.

According to Baack he was a great shooter and "kind of crazy," but helped keep the team loose.

Cagers Been Yet!

gets a rebound basket to cut the Jayhawk advantage to 30-29. Campbell scores to give Nebraska the lead at 31-30.

Damm steals the ball and passes to Lantz, who scores when Wesley is called for goal-tending, 33-30.

By halftime, the Cornhuskers appear to be in control, leading 43-32. Before the game is over, though, Kansas will pull back to within four, at 77-73, before four free throws and a layup by Simmons in the final 43 seconds of the game seal the upset victory.

Branch is Nebraska's leading scorer, finishing with 18 points. Lantz scores 15 points and grabs 10 rebounds. Baack hits eight-of-eight from the free throw line to contribute 14 points; Simmons has 12 points, and Campbell and Damm each chip in 11 points in the balanced attack.

Wesley, Rod Franz and Delvy Lewis are the key performers for Kansas.

Wesley finishes with 22 points and 12 rebounds. Lewis scored 20 points, and Franz gets 17 points and 14 rebounds.

The Jayhawks out-rebound the shorter Cornhuskers 57-41, but Nebraska out-shoots the visitors 50.8 percent to 33.

Afterward, Cipriano explains his team's strategy to reporters.

"We just cornered 'em with our press," he said. "We got 'em in the corners and double-teamed 'em."

It's an oldie but goodie, one Baack likes to play over and over. "The excitement before that game, the anticipation of the fans...I've never been around anything like it in college basketball," said the Nebraska assistant coach. "Kansas had the

best team in the country, I thought."

The Jayhawks won the Big Eight and advanced to the NCAA Tournament, losing to eventual champion Texas Western in double-overtime, 81-80, in the Midwest Regional finals.

"They had great players, but we played a tremendous game. We played about as well that night as any team I was on in my three years at Nebraska," Baack said.

The Cornhuskers finished 20-5 when Baack was a sophomore. In addition to the Big Eight Tournament loss to Kansas, they fell to the Jayhawks later in the season at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence, 110-73. The other losses were to California, Ok-

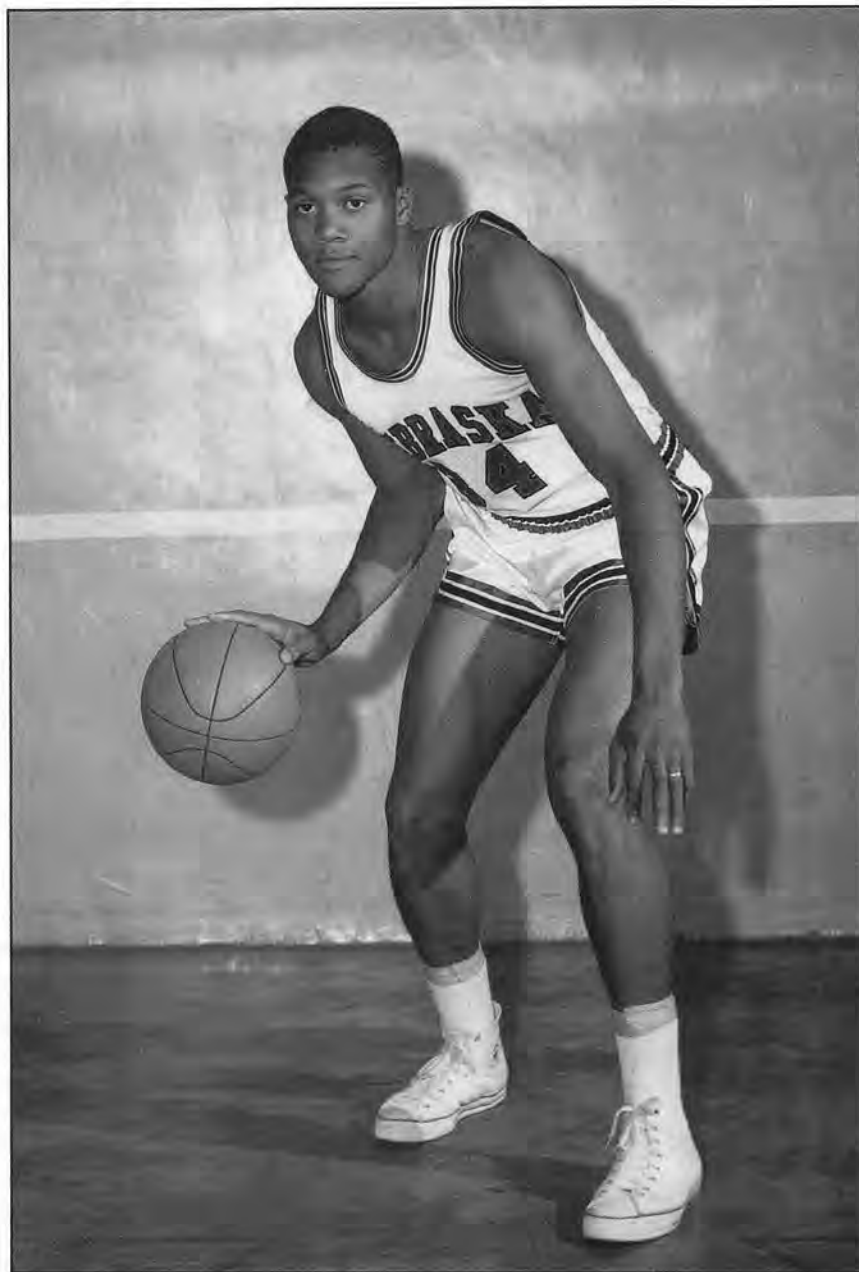
lahoma City University and Colorado, a 95-88 upset at Balch Fieldhouse in Boulder which cost the Cornhuskers a share of the Big Eight championship.

Nebraska's 12-2 conference record was good for second place behind the Jayhawks' 13-1. Kansas advanced to post-season play; the Cornhuskers didn't.

Nebraska's 1965-66 team was definitive run-and-gun even though it lacked a true center. That responsibility belonged to Campbell.

"We were kind of a maverick team at that stage," said Baack, who shot 54.2 percent from the field, 85.2 percent from the free throw line and averaged 15.4 points a





Willie Campbell "gave people fits" with his one-on-one defensive style of play.

game as a sophomore. "We'd run and gun and press, try to take advantage of what we did best.

"Most other teams were fairly conservative, walk the ball down the court. People hadn't seen our style of basketball, and a lot of teams couldn't adjust to it."

The Cornhuskers took on the character of Cipriano, who was assisted by Glen Potter. "They did a good job of analyzing our team and playing the way we had to. We were a legitimate Top 10 team. If we had gotten a chance to play in the NCAA Tournament, we might have done pretty well," Baack said.

"I remember watching Kentucky play. They made the Final Four, and we could've played with them."

The Wildcats of Coach Adolph Rupp lost to Texas Western, 72-65, in the

NCAA championship game. Nebraska Coach Moe Iba was an assistant to Don Haskins at Texas Western, now Texas-El Paso.

Nebraska earned a trip to the National Invitation Tournament at Madison Square Garden in New York City the next season with a 16-8 record, losing to Marshall in the opening round, 119-88.

The 1966-67 team was good, but it didn't compare to the 1965-66 team.

"My sophomore year, we had great team speed and quickness. It was one of the best in terms of those qualities. We also had great shooting ability. Everybody complemented each other so well. Nobody really cared who scored. Everybody was competitive and wanted to win," said Baack.

Three other players besides Baack car-

ried double-figure scoring averages: Simmons (15.2), Branch (13.5) and Lantz (12.2). Campbell averaged 8.8 points a game, and Hare came off the bench to contribute an average of 8.2 ppg.

The Cornhuskers shot 43.3 percent from the field as a team and out-rebounded their opponents 1,062 to 987.

Lantz, who stood 6-3 and weighed 180 pounds, led Nebraska in rebounding with 199, an average of eight a game. Branch was second with 170 (6.8 per game).

The 1965-66 Cornhuskers were a special mix. "There weren't any jealousies or things like that," said Baack.

The teams on which he played as a junior and senior were similarly close, and probably just as talented. "But we didn't put things together," he said. "Something was missing."

After the 16-9 team Baack's junior year, Nebraska trailed off a little more his senior year, finishing 15-10. The Cornhuskers never quite recaptured the glory of 1965-66. Baack recently shared his recollections of the starters on that team with *Huskies Illustrated*.

GRANT SIMMONS, 6-3, 195-POUND SENIOR, OMAHA BENSON.

Simmons was ranked third on Nebraska's all-time scoring list when he graduated, behind Herschell Turner and Rex Ekwall. He scored 849 points during his three-year varsity career.

Baack on Simmons: "He played in the ABA (American Basketball Association), so you know he had some ability. Grant was an excellent ball-handler, a very tough, physical, hard-nosed player who wouldn't back off from anybody.

"He played with extreme confidence at all times. I don't think you could call him a great shooter, but he was a good shooter. He was very good on the fastbreak, passed the ball well. Defensively, he was always assigned to cover the opponent's best offensive guard. He was such a confident player.

"Grant went right after it. He tried to physically intimidate people, which I think you need. He was a key to the team because of his senior leadership. He was kind of crazy, but you also need people like that. He was fun to be around. He kept us loose."

According to Baack, the turning point in the season was a 70-68 victory over California in Berkeley. The night before, the Golden Bears had beaten Nebraska 87-71. The Cornhuskers trailed by 15 points in the second half, but began their comeback after Simmons got in a fight with one of the Bears. Simmons was ejected.

**NATE BRANCH, 6-4, 185-POUND JUNIOR,
PALO ALTO, CALIF.**

He carried the nickname "Dipper" and received All-American honorable mention following his junior season. Branch played the organ in the Nate Branch Trio, which often performed in dorm lounges around campus.

Baack on Branch: "He was an exceptionally talented individual, not only in basketball but also off the floor, musically. He was probably the most physically talented forward Nebraska has ever had.

"His first two steps were unbelievable; he was so quick. And he had a flair for the dramatic. He'd put the ball on the floor, take it in, do a 360 and throw it up, flip up a shot you wouldn't think had a chance of going in and it'd go in. Nate kept us laughing all the time. He was just a great personality, and it showed afterward.

"He became player-coach for the Harlem Globetrotters. You have to have a good personality to do that. I always thought Nate would have a chance to make it in the pros, but he probably didn't have the self-discipline to get it done. Nate was pretty loose. I don't think he worked as hard at basketball as he could have.

"He played the organ at halftime of one of our games. We weren't big on halftime talks."

**WILLIE CAMPBELL, 6-6, 210-POUND JUNIOR,
SEATTLE, WASH.**

He missed six games because of an injury. Because the Cornhuskers lacked a true center, he was probably playing out of position. But in Cipriano's system, a small center who could get up and down the court could be a plus, which Campbell was.

Baack on Campbell: "Willie probably didn't get the publicity some of the other players on that team did. He was an exceptional athlete, strong, great speed and quickness. I think his arms went all the way down to his ankles.

"We pressed full-court, a zone press, and Willie played the ball, the guy taking it out-of-bounds. Almost every game he'd get two or three steals just by deflecting the ball when the guy threw it in. He'd deflect it, get it, and make a lay-in. He had great anticipation, and he was such an exceptional jumper.

"Willie wasn't a great shooter, but he was a great one-on-one player. When you're 6-9, 6-10 or 6-11, it's tough to play the post, defensively, against a guy like Willie. He gave people fits. He had such great athletic ability, he could do a pretty good job defensively, despite the height disadvantage."

**STUART LANTZ, 6-3, 180-POUND SOPH.
UNIONTOWN, PA.**

Lantz left Nebraska as the school's second all-time scorer with 1,266 points. He had a career field goal percentage of 48.5, which was excellent for that time. Despite his size, he occasionally played center.

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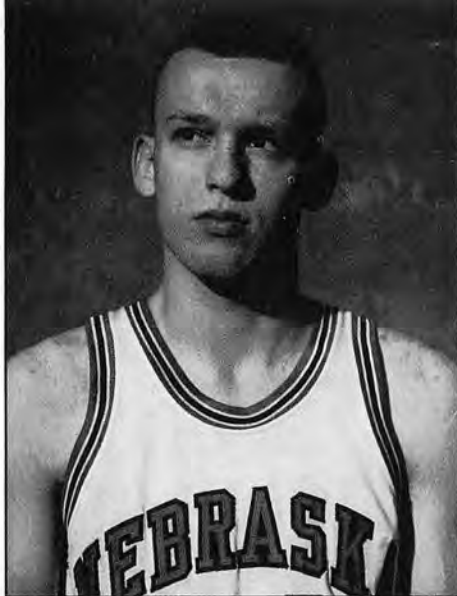
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Tom Baack (top), and
Jim Damm (lower.)

Baack on Lantz: "Stuart was a great player. I've always said I don't think Nebraska's ever had a better player than Stu Lantz. I think you're probably a little prejudiced when you've played with somebody, you know him real well, and he's become one of your best friends. But Stuart played in the pros for 10 years, and

Nebraska's never had anybody who did that.

"So I don't see how you can argue Stuart's not the best we've ever had. He's also a great person. We've stayed in touch and remain very good friends. Stu hasn't changed a bit.

"He could do it all. There's not one thing Stuart couldn't do. He played center for us the year Willie (Campbell) was hurt for three weeks. He played forward, guard. He could shoot. He could handle the ball. He was a very intelligent player, very highly motivated to do well.

"Stuart was a character. He had unbelievable confidence in himself, not cockiness, not conceit. Everybody on that team had it, but Stuart had it maybe a little more so. It wasn't false cockiness. A lot of times people say things and do things because they're not really sure of themselves. But Stuart didn't have to say anything. He just had a look about him.

"He was ready to play every game. It was nice to have him on your side."

**TOM BAACK, 6-5, 195-POUND SOPHOMORE
FORT WAYNE, IND.**

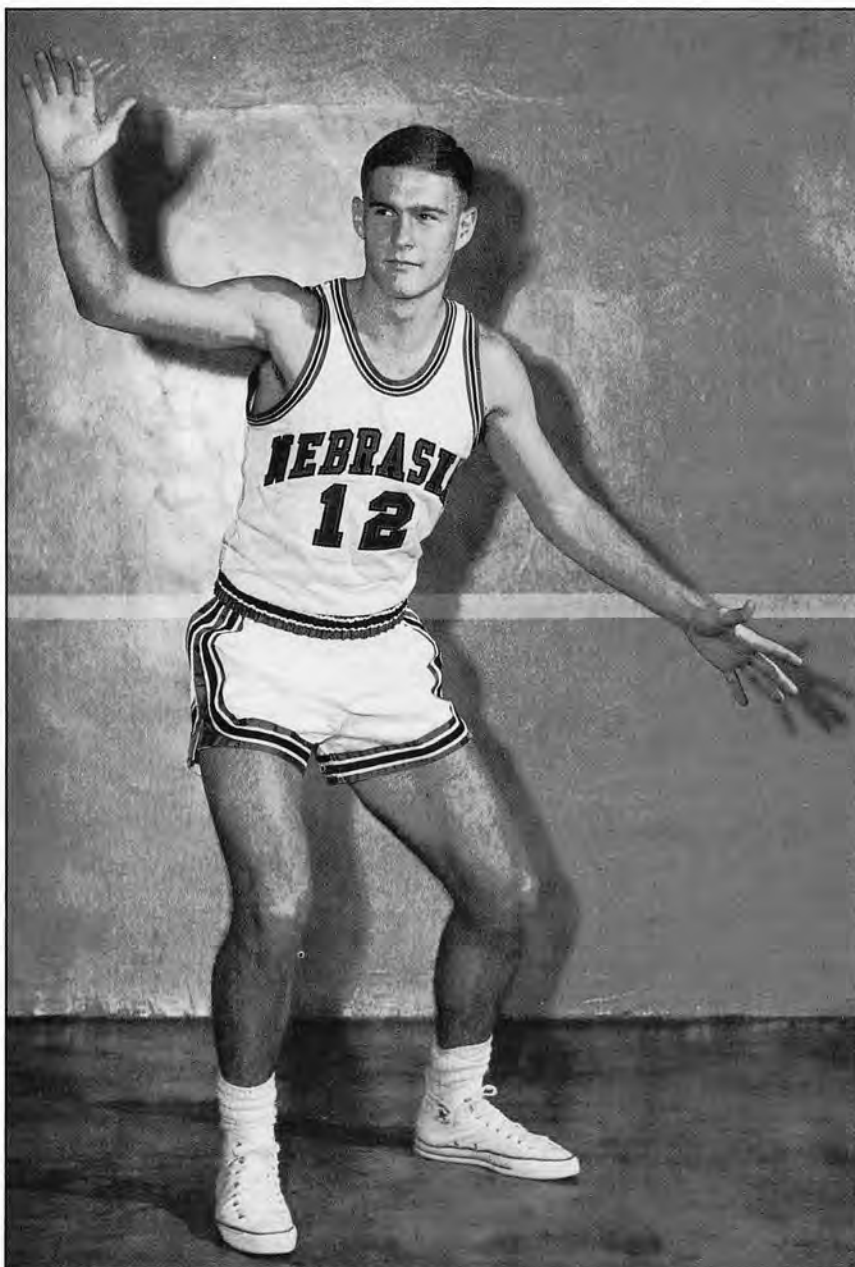
Baack was Nebraska's career scoring leader when he graduated. In three seasons, he scored 1,293 points, just 27 more than Lantz. He also ranked as the school's all-time best free throw shooter, hitting 83.6 percent.

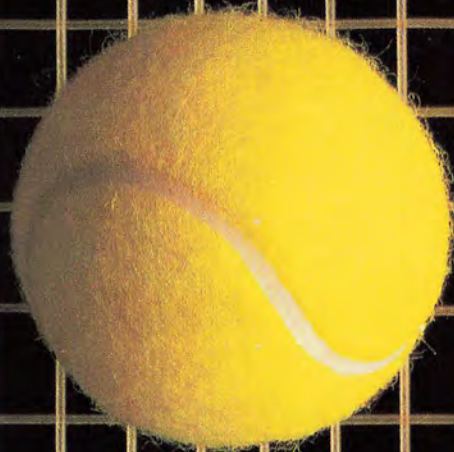
Baack on Baack: "Whenever you're surrounded by great athletes, it makes you a better player. My strength was shooting the ball. That's one reason they recruited me. Plus, I was pretty fundamentally sound. I didn't turn the ball over. When you don't have athletic ability like some other players, you've got to use your intelligence and play the smartest way you can.

"I just took advantage of what I did best and tried to mold it into helping the team. They wanted me to shoot. The nice thing about it was, the other players knew I could shoot so it didn't bother them to have me shoot 16, 17, 18 times a game. They knew I'd hit 50 percent, which was an exceptional percentage at that time.

"I believe in myself. There wasn't a shot I took at Nebraska that I didn't think was going in. You've got to be confident. We didn't let anything stand in our way. You've got to believe in yourself. Whenever we stepped on the floor, we knew we were going to win."

The rest of the team included: Jim Damm, 6-2, 190, sophomore, Bellflower, Calif.; Ron Simmons, 6-1, 175, sophomore, Sumner, Ne.; Fred Hare, 6-1, 180, junior, Omaha; Dick Davidson, 6-6, 185, sophomore, McDonald, Pa.; Coley Webb, 6-5, 220, senior, Elkhart, Ind.; Frank Empkey, 6-8, 200, junior, Omaha; Al Reiners, 6-8, 205, senior, Hastings; Russ Washer, 6-5, 185, sophomore, Corbin, La.; Ernie Strasil, 6-5, 200, sophomore, Falls City, Ne.; Charles Stone, 6-10, 210, junior, Oakland, Calif. ♦





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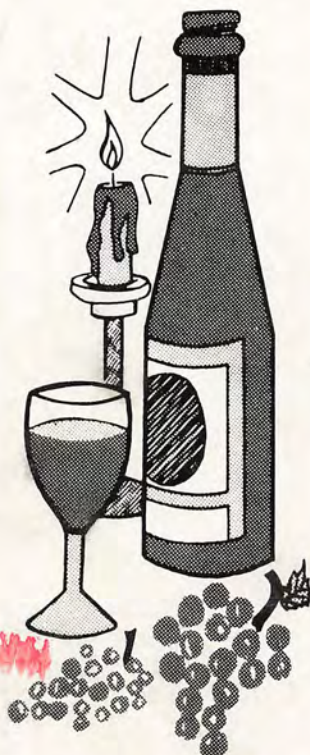


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Baseball

Continued from page 54

Calif., and five in Las Vegas before returning to Lincoln to open Big Eight play against Kansas State, March 29-30.

The Schedule (*doubleheaders noted)

March 5 — Missouri Western
March 6 — Missouri Western
March 8 — Kearney State
March 9 — Kearney State
March 13 — Wayne State
March 14 — Wayne State
March 16 — Stetson at Las Vegas
Best in the West Classic at Las Vegas
March 17 — San Diego State
March 18 — Fresno State
March 19 — Washington State
March 20 — Classic (TBA)
March 21 — Classic (TBA)
March 22 — Classic (TBA)
March 24 — *at Nevada-Las Vegas
March 25 — *at Nevada-Las Vegas
March 26 — at Nevada-Las Vegas
March 29 — *Kansas State
March 30 — *Kansas State

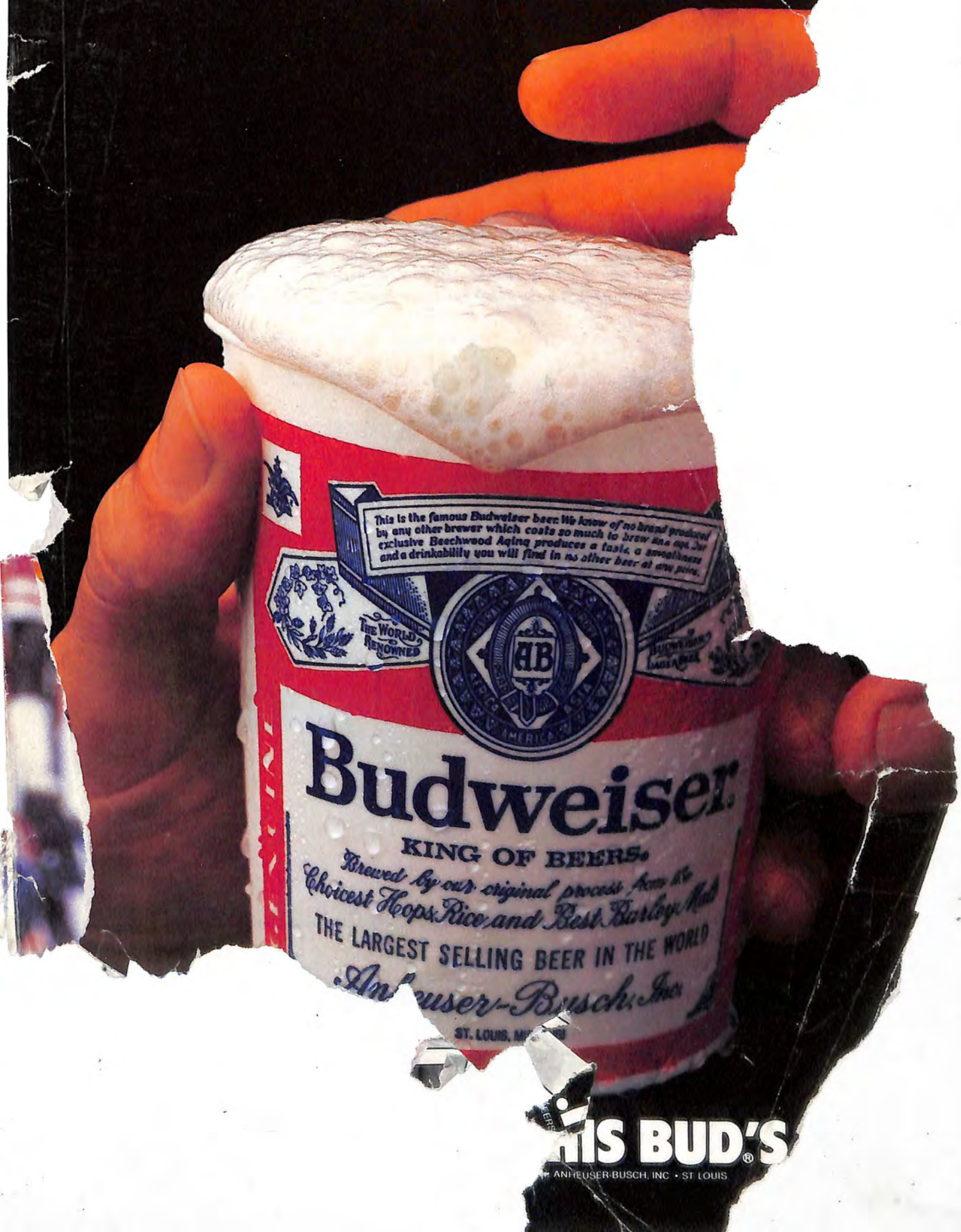
April 2 — Wichita State
April 3 — at Kansas State
April 5 — *at Iowa State
April 6 — *at Iowa State
April 9 — at Wichita State
April 10 — *Northwest Missouri
April 12 — *Kansas
April 13 — *Kansas
April 16 — Kansas State
April 17 — at Wichita State
April 18 — Oklahoma at OKC
April 19 — *Oklahoma at OKC
April 20 — Oklahoma at Norman
April 22 — *Northern Colorado
April 23 — *at Creighton
April 25 — at Oral Roberts
April 26 — at Oral Roberts
April 28 — *at Minnesota
April 29 — Creighton
April 30 — Creighton
May 1 — Wichita State
May 3 — *Oklahoma State
May 4 — *Oklahoma State
May 10 — *at Missouri
May 11 — *at Missouri
May 14-18 — Big Eight Tournament in
Oklahoma City
May 22-26 — NCAA Regionals (TBA)
May 30-June 8 — College World Series

Nebraska Baseball Roster (*indicates projected redshirt)

Burt Beattie	C	Sr.	Aberdeen, S.D.
*Jarron Bradley	OF	Fr.	St. Louis
Todd Bunge	OF	Jr.	St. Louis
Mike Dobbs	RhP	Sr.	Lincoln
John Franklin	1B/OF	Jr.	Carmel, Ca.
Phil Goguen	RhP	Fr.	San Diego
Kip Gross	RhP	So.	Gering
*Dan Haas	Inf	Fr.	Lincoln
*Doug Hailey	C	Fr.	Schuyler
Phil Harrison	LhP	So.	Glendora, Ca.
Curtiss Heflin	Inf.	Sr.	San Diego
Mark Honnor	LhP	Sr.	Lincoln
Rocky Johnson	RhP	So.	Omaha
Rich King	OF	Sr.	Millard
Dale Kistaitis	LhP	Fr.	Omaha
Mark Kister	3B/C	Jr.	Hastings
Jeff Koenigsman	LhP	Sr.	Omaha
*Patrick Leinen	LhP	Fr.	Omaha
Rich Lenhart	OF	Jr.	San Diego
John Lepley	LhP	So.	Omaha
Phil Lieberher	LhP	Jr.	Winterhaven, Fl.
Kevin Merrill	RhP/C	So.	Omaha
Paul Meyers	OF	Jr.	Omaha
McGraw Milhaven	RhP	Fr.	Manhasset, N.Y.
Larry Mims	Inf.	Sr.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.
Bryan Newton	1B	Jr.	Lincoln
Cody Schilling	OF	Jr.	Columbus
Joel Sealer	LhP	So.	Omaha
Stevens Spurgeon	RhP	Jr.	Bellevue
Jeff Taylor	1B	So.	Omaha
Bruce Wobken	Inf.	Fr.	Scribner
Cory Zenon	OF	So.	Omaha

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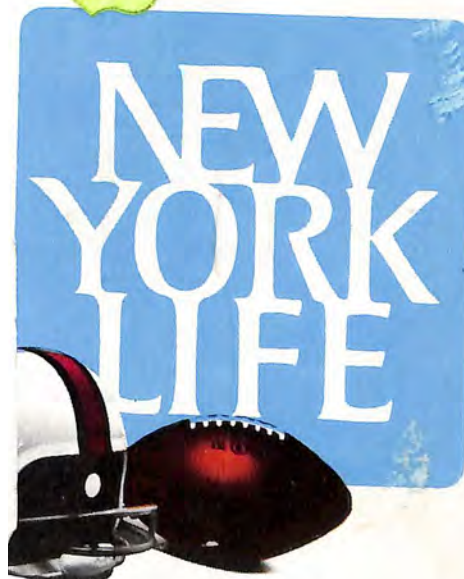
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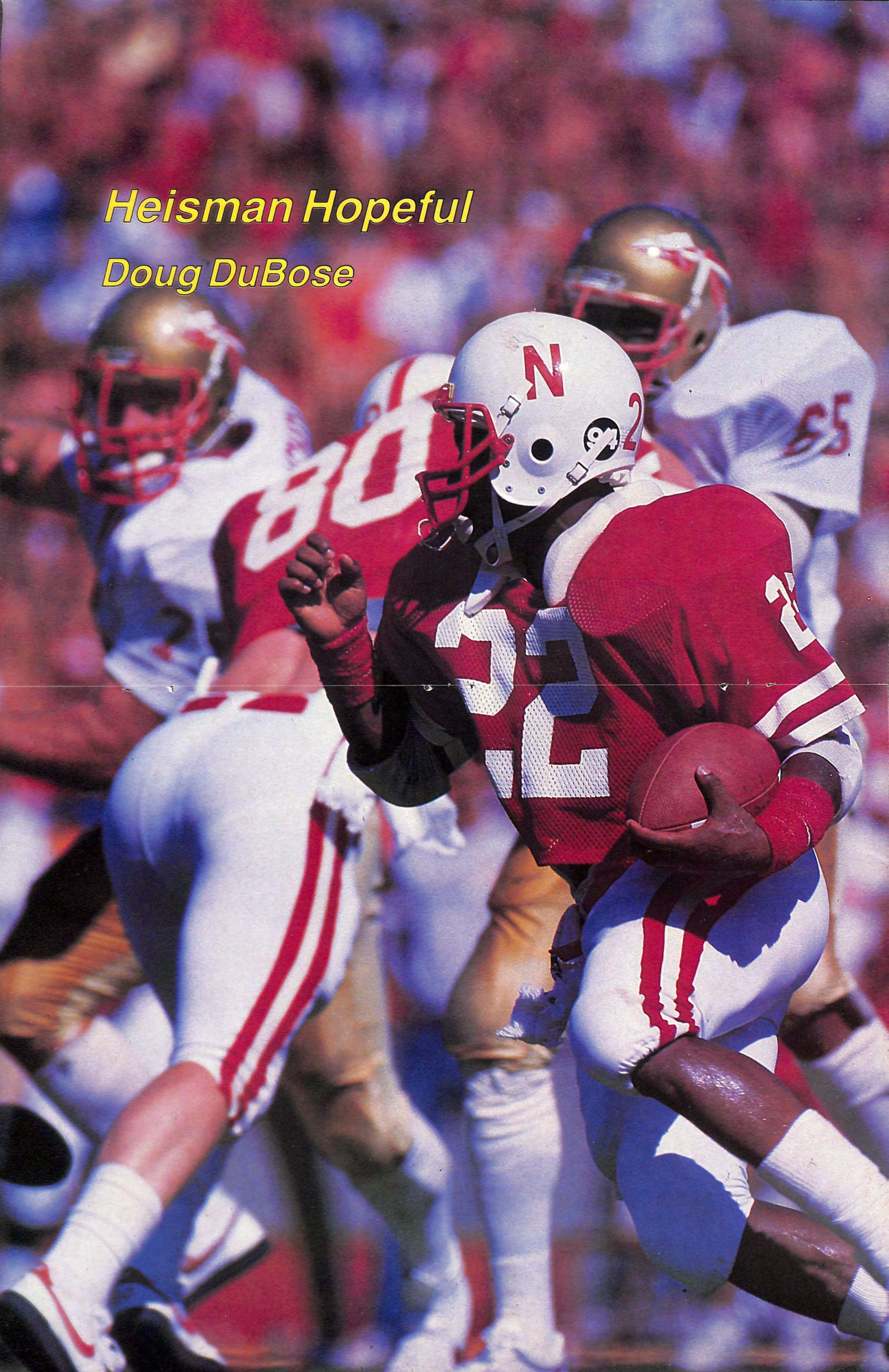


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